Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE

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CONCERN AS 146 PUPILS EXPELLED

BY MEGAN ARCHER

SCHOOLS in Staffordshire have expelled more than 140 pupils in less than a year.

One school in Rugeley has the highest number of exclusions in the region.

The higher than average absence rates at the county's units for troubled youngsters have sparked concerns. In total 146 pupils were permanently excluded from Staffordshire schools during the 2017-18 academic year up to the end of March. There were a further 23 exclusions that were cancelled.

Persistent disruptive behaviour was the most common reason, with 61 cases, while other reasons related to drugs and alcohol, physical assaults on adults or other pupils and verbal abuse. One case related to sexual misconduct, while another was for racist abuse.

The Hart School in Rugeley had the highest number of exclusions for the academic year – nine in total – with the second place being taken by another school in Cannock Chase; Kingsmead School in Hednesford permanently excluded six pupils. Staffordshire University Academy in Cannock Chase took third place, with four pupils excluded.

Permanent

Overall 34 pupils from the Cannock Chase area were permanently excluded between September 2017 and March 2018, 19 from Stafford, 11 from Lichfield, 14 from South Staffordshire, and the other 68 from elsewhere in the county.

Karl Hobson, county manager for Targeted Services, told this week's Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee meeting: "Staffordshire had a recent history that each year our permanent exclusions would rise significantly.

"This year I'm pleased to report that the evidence we have so far is demonstrating that although we won't see a reduction we won't see a significant rise."

But absence rates at the county's six pupil referral units (PRUs) were a cause for concern.

PRUs cater for children who do not attend mainstream schools and are at risk of permanent exclusion or have been excluded.

Latest figures revealed that the overall absence rates at Staffordshire PRUs were 13.5 per cent above the national average of 4.7 per cent.

In contrast the overall absence rate at mainstream primary and secondary schools in the region is 0.2 per cent below the national average.

Councillor Philip White, cabinet member for learning and employability, said: "That is very concerning and it is something we are doing work on to examine why that may be the case."

ALL SMILES FOR A VERY SUNNY VILLAGE CARNIVAL

Fancy dress winner Katie Whittaker as the Statue of Liberty

Kirstie Whitehouse celebrating her 26th birthday at the carnival

THOUSANDS of people from all over the area flocked to a popular summer carnival at the weekend.

Around 5,000 people enjoyed the glorious sunshine at Great Wyrley Carnival on Saturday, along with a host of fun activities, with South Staffordshire MP and Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson also making an appearance.

Entertainment throughout the day included a dog show, fun fair and marching bands with a packed arena line-up.

Pauline Kelsey, secretary of the Great Wyrley Carnival Committee, which organises the event each year, said: "We had an excellent afternoon.

"Of course, the weather was beautiful. We're delighted with how the event went."

The floats in the procession were judged by chair of Great Wyrley Parish Council, Helen Snape, and vice-chairman Tony Newell.

The winners of the competition, which was themed on countries taking part in the 2018 World Cup, were Willenhall's St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, whose theme was Brazil. Second place was Great Wyrley Scout Group, with Saudi Arabia and third place was Great Wyrley Guides whose country was Mexico.

The best dressed stall was the Great Wyrley Townswomen's Guild and there was also a fancy dress competition for adults and children.

Preparations will soon be under way for 2019's Great Wyrley Carnival – and Mrs Kelsey is appealing for members of the public to come forward and help.

She added: "It takes us a year to organise, we'll be starting next year's event soon.

"We have a meeting to discuss everything and then go from there.

"We have only a small committee so are always looking for volunteers to join up." Anyone who would like to help out should call 01922 414647.

Freya Thursfield, aged seven, with raffle winnings

DEVELOPMENT

Land sale completed for designer outlet

CANNOCK Chase Council has completed the legal sale of land for the new £160 million McArthurGlen Designer Outlet.

Councillor George Adamson, leader of the council, said: "A lot of work has taken place to get us to this stage. This is a key milestone for this development, which will significantly raise the profile of the district."

About 29 acres next to Mill Green Nature Park has been bought in a joint venture between McArthurGlen, Aviva Investors, The Richardson Family and U+I.

McArthurGlen's portfolio now comprises 24 centres in nine countries.

BOXING

Last chance to get Tyson Fury tickets

A FEW tickets are still available to see boxing champ Tyson Fury in Cannock.

The controversial former World Champion is appearing at The Premier Suite tonight (Thursday).

Fury won the unified world titles after defeating champion Vladimir Klitschko in November 2015 but was later stripped of his titles and only made his comeback fight last month. To book tickets call 01543 572092. Tickets are not available on the door.

REDEDICATION

Ceremony to mark memorial refurb

A REDEDICATION ceremony will take place on Saturday to mark the refurbishment of Hednesford War Memorial.

Former servicemen and cadets will meet at 11am and parade through the park to the memorial for the ceremony at 11.45am.

The work was carried out after Cannock Chase Council was awarded a £2.2 million Heritage Lottery Grant in 2012.

INSIDE
FOREST LIVE IS A SCORCHER

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01543 465302
E-mail: cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sarah Jones
Tel: 01543 465341
E-mail: sarah.winfield-jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01543 465337
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Jayne La Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465334
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Audience back George all the way

George Ezra – rapport

SUNDAY: George Ezra

IT was quite fitting that on the weekend of landing his first number one hit, George Ezra was underneath the hot sun at Cannock Chase.

"It doesn't feel like a Sunday night. You're all having too much fun," said the 25-year-old singer/songwriter as he took the stage to wrap up the three nights of concerts at the beauty spot.

Having already mastered the 'difficult' second album, the likeable Ezra promised to treat fans to songs from both titles – debut work Wanted on Voyage and the most recent release Staying at Tamara's – and he duly delivered.

Opening with Cassy O, Ezra soon got the crowd involved, urging the massed ranks to sing along to the uplifting Pretty Shining People, encouraging them to join in with Don't Matter Now and geeing them up for the hitherto biggest hit Paradise.

There was the story behind each song and the popular artist clearly enjoyed a rapport with the fans. It was probably the biggest audience I have seen while enjoying the concerts on The Chase, and the crowd was lapping it up. The main set ended with the chart-topping single Shotgun.

"I've played this all over the world and this is the first time I can say this is number one," the proud musician exclaimed. And no second invitation was needed for crowd to join in.

The flashlights were out as the encore began with Leaving It Up To You and Budapest sent them all home happy.

Leeds-based trio Shadowlark provided useful support for the main act, but it was Ezra they had come to see and By George – what a show!

Mark Shipp

Concerts on the Chase hit all of the hotspots

The crowd enjoying the music – and great weather – at Cannock Chase on Sunday, the last of three concerts at the beauty spot over the weekend *Pictures: Dave Cox and Andy Shaw*

CHOOSE LIFE
CHOOSE LIFE

Good choice – Lynn Arnold of Stafford and daughter-in-law Lauren Arnold of Cannock

Paloma Faith performs on Friday night

Julie Allatt, left, and Julie March of Hednesford

Paul Heaton performing on Saturday

THOUSANDS of people basked in glorious sunshine for three days of live music on Cannock Chase.

Paloma Faith, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, and George Ezra performed to sold-out crowds for the annual Forest Live concerts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Families and music fans young and old turned out to the shows, which have been hailed a hit once again. Vocal powerhouse Paloma Faith gave a tremendous performance as she kicked off the event on Friday.

The Hackney-born 36-year-old looked stunning in a silver sequinned jumpsuit, with blonde cropped hair and silver platform heels.

She gave passionate performances of songs such as Crybaby, My Body, Can't Rely On You, and Picking Up The Pieces.

On Saturday, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, who together rose to fame in The Beautiful South, were at the site for the second year running."

Singer-songwriter Billy Bragg opened the evening's entertainment.

Ray Fear, 52, from Burntwood, sporting a Billy Bragg T-shirt, said: "I think the venue is superb."

Meanwhile, friends Julie Allatt and Julie March, from Hednesford, took deckchairs to sit back and enjoy the show. Mrs Allatt, 57, said: "I've been loads of times and I came last night for Paloma Faith." Mrs March said: "There isn't a bad seat in the house here, it's such a good venue. There's always a good atmosphere."

Sunday saw one of the UK's biggest-selling male artists, George Ezra, bring the weekend to a close with material from new latest, chart-topping album Staying At Tamara's as well as debut record Wanted On Voyage.

The Forestry Commission concerts, which take place near the Birches Valley Forest Centre, have been running since 2006.

Pair return with beauty of a show

SATURDAY: Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott

NESTLED in the picturesque setting of Cannock Chase, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott returned to impress at the beauty spot's second day of live music.

It's fair to say the northern duo are no strangers to the stunning venue, after previously rocking the crowd at the Forestry Commission's Forest Live concert series in 2016. The pair, who together rose to fame as The Beautiful South, were at the venue on the back of last year's third record Crooked Calypso.

This time though, they were here to welcome singer-songwriter Billy Bragg with them, who opened the evening's affairs on a splendid night. It was a perfect warm-up for the main act.

Heaton and Abbott performed material from their albums as a duo as well as hits from their previous bands.

Hips were swinging for I'll Sail This Ship Alone, DIY and Old Red Eyes Is Back before Paul whipped out a box of radishes he'd grown to share with the audience. Not only did the band return for one encore but two, as giant inflatable balloons soared through the sky for A Little Time, You Keep It All In and Caravan Of Love. Paul and Jacqui (and Billy), you're welcome back anytime.

Tom Oakley

Paloma and fans are so wonderful

FRIDAY: Paloma Faith

VOCAL powerhouse Paloma Faith gave a tremendous performance as she kicked off three days of live music on Cannock Chase.

In front of a sold-out crowd, she looked stunning – and sounded even better, her strong, wide ranging vocals remaining impressive throughout the set.

On a warm, sunny evening, the singer/songwriter kicked off with the title track of her latest album The Architect, before treating fans to a selection of numbers new and old. "Hi everybody, you're rather wonderful," beamed Paloma, stood atop an angular iridescent set."

Her love for the fans was clear – and made all the more obvious when she stopped the show after spotting someone faint in the crowd. "Someone's fallen down so it's just not appropriate to carry on until it's been sorted," she said.

Make Your Own Kind Of Music, 'Til I'm Done and Lullaby followed, before the set turned into a dance show with thumping bass and flashing lights.

"We don't do encores at festivals because my feet hurt and these sequins are chafing like a mother," laughed Paloma, before ending the stunning set with Only Love Can Hurt Like This.

Kirsten Rawlins

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The crowds turn out for Armed Forces Day

STAFFORDSHIRE and the Black Country came together to show their support for servicemen and women on Armed Forces Day.

The annual event, which has been taking place since 2009, was basked in sunshine across the region on Saturday and Sunday. Veterans mixed with serving personnel and families at specially organised events in towns and cities all over the region.

From the Army, to the Navy, Royal Air Force and Cadets, members of the armed forces community were celebrated across the weekend.

Wolverhampton hosted a day filled with music and entertainment. People lined the streets as a military parade – led by The Band of the Mercian Regiment – marched from Dudley Street to Queen Square before culminating with a flag-lowering ceremony.

And in Stafford, displays took place in Market Square to mark the event on Saturday, organised by the Stafford branch of the Royal British Legion. Several charities and regiments were present including soldiers, sailors, airmen, the Staffordshire Regiment, Royal British Legion Bikers, and Royal Engineers Association.

Branch president of the Stafford branch of the Royal British Legion, Chas Dale, was delighted with how the day went. He said: "We've had a brilliant day. It was very well supported by all the local people."

Buses will replace Chase Line trains

RAIL passengers are set to face problems on the Chase Line as work continues on the electrification of the route.

Train services will be changed between Birmingham New Street and Rugeley Trent in July and August.

On Sunday, July 8, buses will replace trains between Tame Bridge Parkway and Rugeley Trent Valley.

The same will apply on August 5, 12, 19 and 26. It comes after commuters endured the same issues in June and earlier this year.

Meanwhile, trains between Birmingham and Tame Bridge Parkway will be diverted and not call at Duddeston, Aston, Witton and Perry Barr. Buses will replace trains at these stations and will also call at Hamstead.

Gardens on show

GARDENS in Colwich and the Haywoods are open to the public from 10am to 5pm on Sunday. A £4 fee guarantees admission to all gardens. Proceeds go to Katharine House Hospice. Call 01889 621372 for details.

Fly-tippers strike three times a day

Rubbish dumped in Penkridge

FLY-TIPPERS are dumping piles of rubbish almost three times a day in a Staffordshire district, figures show.

There were 946 incidents of fly-tipping in south Staffordshire over the 12-month period from April 2017 to March 2018. This means South Staffordshire Council's environmental crime team are dealing with the issue on a daily basis.

The most common items being dumped include household waste, construction waste and white goods.

But asbestos and clinical waste were also found during the first five months of 2018. Meanwhile, caravans are being filled with rubbish and dumped beside roads across the district, Councillor David Clifft told a South Staffordshire Council meeting.

He said: "The team has dealt with it extremely effectively, but it meant closing the road for 24 hours to deal with it. It seems there is an ongoing problem with caravans being dumped and we have had to get specialist equipment in."

Figures presented to the meeting revealed that there had mainly been a monthly decline in incidents since the beginning of 2018, apart from in April when cases rose from 79 to 86.

Councillor Roger Lees, deputy leader of the council, said covert cameras were being used to obtain evidence.

"It is down, except for April, and we continue to make every effort to make sure this continues," he said. "Well done to the team for their ongoing efforts."

The council is meeting targets to investigate 100 per cent of fly-tipping incidents and agree actions to resolve problems within two working days.

Anger at HS2 power line plan near beauty spot

THE Government has revealed it wants to construct a huge power line across a Staffordshire beauty spot as part of a series of changes to its plans for HS2.

The high-voltage line will stretch for more than six miles from west of Newborough to the HS2 line near Stockwell Heath, passing alongside Blithe Valley and the Blithbury Reservoir.

It will be held together by a series of 50-metre high pylons and will serve as one of three independent power feeds required to provide electricity for the HS2 line between Birmingham and Crewe, which is due to open in 2027.

Ministers have also revealed they want to buy up more land across the county, chiefly for 'utility diversions'.

The plans were branded 'totally unacceptable' by Lichfield's Tory MP Michael Fabricant, who locked horns with Transport Minister Nusrat Ghani and officials from the Department of Transport at a stormy meeting in Parliament last week.

Buried

Mr Fabricant said: "This will be yet a further desecration of beautiful Staffordshire countryside by HS2 as the pylons will march across the Blithe Valley just south of the Blithbury Reservoir which is used for sailing and other recreation. Once again, a lack of coordination between HS2 and organisations like the National Grid means my constituents, visitors, and the environment will suffer."

HS2 bosses say two power feeds for the line will be provided by the transformer site at the decommissioned Rugeley Power Station, meaning a third will need to come from near Newborough. Mr Fabricant insists that the third power source should be 'buried out of sight'.

A letter from Ms Ghani to Mr Fabricant details the proposals, put forward as amendments to the HS2 Bill. It says that following further design and development work by HS2 Ltd, a number of required changes to the original plans emerged. This includes 'an alternative traction power supply for the railway' and additional land in Kings Bromley, Fradley, Alrewas, Streethay and Mavesyn Ridware.

Residents, from left, Doris Lovell, Mo Dawson and Diane Yates outside the Almshouses in Church Street, Rugeley

No place like home thanks to makeover

RESIDENTS living in historic houses in Rugeley have started moving back in after a £605,000 refurbishment.

Six Almshouses, dating back to the 1800s, have been in need of refurbishment for many years .

Last year, Aspire Housing began restoring the properties to their former glory and also paved the way for an additional three affordable homes in Church Street.

The properties, owned by The Hopkins and Sneyd Almshouse Charity, are steeped in history and cited as representing some of the best examples of domestic architecture in the town.

Board chairman Mick Grocott said: "May we thank our residents who have supported what we have done and are now reaping the benefits for their patience."

The development was financed by Hopkins and Sneyd with £252,000 of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Comedians to put on Fringe preview

COMEDIANS Tom Stade and Chris Stokes are teaming up for a return to the Midlands with an Edinburgh Fringe preview.

They will be performing at the Fat Penguin Comedy club in Moseley, Birmingham, on July 25. Stokes, who went to Great Wyrley High School, is trialling his We Don't Need Roads solo stand-up show ahead of the Fringe.

He will be opening for Canadian comic Stade, who used to live in the Black Country and famously has a routine about a meat van in Bilston.

The Fat Penguin Comedy Club is a weekly crowd-funded comedy night at the Patrick Kavanagh bar.

Customers help Aldi collect £2m

GENEROUS customers and staff at Aldi in Rugeley raised more than £1,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust.

Fundraising efforts at the store also helped the retailer hit its £2 million milestone last month.

Employees in Rugeley have supported the charity drive over the last six months with a skydive and fundraising days, which included a bike ride and bucket collections.

After launching the partnership in January 2017 with the aim of raising £5m, Aldi reached the £1m milestone at the turn of the year.

Resolution centre 'speeds up cases'

A RESOLUTION centre designed to change the way the public interacts with the police with non-emergency calls has led to thousands of incidents being dealt with faster and more efficiently, the Staffordshire force says.

Based in Hanley, the centre, which was set up in December to cover the north of the county, has resolved more than 6,000 incidents, with calls to the unit tripling in the first six months.

Two further centres – in Burton and Cannock – are to be launched soon to cover non-urgent incidents in the south of the county.

Walks designed to help people be more active

PEOPLE are invited to join a series of walks in the Cannock Chase area as part of an outdoor activity scheme.

The Chase Fit Outdoor Activity Scheme helps people into walking, cycling, running and gardening activities. The evening walks start at 7pm.

The next one is today (Thursday), starting at Chasewater Innovation Centre. It will be followed with one on July 19 at Birches Valley. Call 07917 505854 for more information.

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Motability show to feature 100 cars

THE country's biggest display of vehicles for disabled people will set up home at Birmingham's NEC at The Big Event.

Taking place tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, it offers disabled motorists and their families the chance to investigate the Motability Scheme, with free admission and free parking.

Free to attend and with free parking, it is the Motability Scheme's flagship event this summer.

The Motability Scheme provides affordable motoring to more than 600,000 disabled customers and their families. More details are available at motability.co.uk/thebigevent.

Drug driving up over two years

DRUG-DRIVING offences in the West Midlands have more than doubled in just two years, according to new research.

A total of 1,231 drivers were charged with driving under the influence of drugs in 2017, up from 533 in 2015.

This includes consumption of illegal, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, which could have an impact on a motorist's ability to drive, such as chlorphenamine, hydroxyzine or promethazine – all types of antihistamines to curb symptoms of hay fever.

In total, more than 6,300 UK drivers have been caught under the influence of drugs in 2017.

Investment brings jobs to the region

OVERSEAS firms pumping money into West Midlands businesses helped create more than 9,400 jobs last year, new figures reveal.

Despite fears over the impact of Brexit talks, the latest figures from the Department for International Trade show increasing numbers of new projects involving foreign direct investment, or FDI.

There were 171 new projects across the region last year – the most for three years, bringing in 9,424 jobs.

Baggies' Bob tees up top golf prize

FORMER Baggies goalkeeper Bob Ward won a charity golf day made up of ex-players. Mr Ward, who made 10 appearances for West Bromwich Albion from 1973 to 1977, took part in the annual golf day at Walsall Golf Club.

It was organised by the West Bromwich Albion Former Players Association. The team winner was one made up of workers at CPC Civils Ltd in Solihull.

Field fires chaos as heatwave continues

FIRES have been causing chaos on grassland and open spaces as the heatwave continued this week.

A fire broke out in a wheat field alongside the M6 near at junction 13 at 5.35pm on Monday, with smoke visible for miles.

Meanwhile, police have warned they will be targeting those starting fires in the open as forecasters said the summer heatwave is set to last throughout July. Temperatures were to hit 30C (86F) in places this week.

At the weekjend, firefighters in the county had one of their busiest days on record as the dry and hot weather brought a surge of grass fires.

On Saturday, the Staffordshire and West Midlands fire services had collectively dealt with more than 400 calls throughout the day up until 5.30pm.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue has revealed that arsonists are behind 76 per cent of outdoor fires.

Police tweeted: "If we find out who sets these fires they will most certainly be dealt with by police."

Firefighters have also battled a large-scale blaze on the Staffordshire Moorlands. And hot coals were dumped at Marquis Drive on Cannock Chase over the weekend.

Countryside rangers are urging people not to use barbecues in rural areas, avoid lighting camp fires and take great care with smouldering cigarettes and discarded glass, which could magnify sunlight. Locations affected include Cannock Chase, Chasewater, and Consall Nature Park.

Emma Salter, meteorologist at the Met Office, said: "It is looking like, for the rest of July, fine weather will dominate."

Cathedral in thank-you to mark 70 years of NHS

By Charlotte Callear

AN event to honour the hard-working staff in the NHS is being held at Lichfield Cathedral today (Thursday).

There will be free tea and buns for all former and current NHS staff in the Chapters Cafe from 10am to 4pm and a special service of thanks giving in the cathedrals at 5.30pm.

The service starts with guest speaker Sir Al Aynsley Green, former first Children's Commissioner for England, previous president of the British Medical Association, and a champion of children and families.

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Rev Adrian Dorber, said: "Seventy years ago after the devastation of war, Nye Bevin brought into being a health service that would provide cradle-to-grave care for every citizen of this country, irrespective of wealth or class.

Vital

"Its popularity from day one has never been in doubt.

"It is a vital part of the fabric of our nation and a practical means of our care and concern for one another.

"It is one of the few things people are willing to pay more taxes for, and we are delighted to celebrate all the NHS has been and will be, and the people who make it so."

Meanwhile, a Black Country hospital is marking the anniversary with an exhibition featuring a collection of medical equipment from the 1800s.

From camphorated oil used to treat inflammation, to oxygen tubes designed to look like glasses, the artefacts are made up of items from historian and former nurse Roy Stallard.

The avid collector has a display in the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, set up to mark the milestone.

Thousands enjoy sun-drenched Wakes

The Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men entertain the crowds at the Burntwood Wakes

BURNTWOOD
WAKES

Michael Fabricant opens the Wakes with, left, Cllrs Pam Stokes, Heather Tranter, Richard Bamborough

Canine stars – a Flyball Dog Agility display in the arena at the Wakes on Saturday

GLORIOUS sunshine saw thousands enjoy family fun at the annual Burntwood Wakes Festival.

The event took place at Burntwood Leisure Centre on Saturday, and organisers are reporting about 5,000 visitors – a significant increase on last year.

Visitors were treated to a wide range of free activities and attractions, including a fun fair, inflatables, face painting, Wonder Wheelers, a games arena, mini zoo, Chase Play Bus, Punch & Judy, and a static bird of prey display.

BFAB Street Dance, Attitude Juniorz and Seniorz Dance Group, Flyball Dog Agility, Illusion Juniorz and Seniorz Dance Group and the Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men also entertained the crowds.

Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant, who opened the event, said: "I thanked God for the weather, Burntwood Town Council and their events committee along with their chair, Councillor Heather Tranter, and council chairman Pam Stokes and Keith Stokes for all the organisation that went into it; and I apologised profusely because the council wanted a celeb to open Burntwood Wakes, but they got me instead!

"My thanks to everyone who appeared in the arena. It was a fantastic day out."

Residents can have a say on new Local Plan

CANNOCK Chase Council is asking residents to get involved with future development decisions.

They can have their say in a consultation on a new local plan covering a period of at least 15 years and determining what sort of development is needed for the future.

Homes, businesses and shops are all included in the plan. The council is keen to hear views on the big issues which a new local plan should cover.

Two other documents are being consulted on at the same time – a scoping report, which is the first stage of a Sustainability Appraisal to inform the emerging local plan, and an updated Statement of Community Involvement setting out how the council involves communities in the planning process.

The consultation runs from now until August 28 and can be completed online. There are also a number of drop-in events:

July 10, 10am-1pm, Rugeley Library; July 11, 4pm-6pm, Prospect Village Hall; July 12, 3.30pm-6.30pm, Heath Hayes Library;

July 13, 10am-1pm, Cannock Library; July 17, 4pm-6.30pm, Brereton Parish Hall; July 18, 4pm-6.30pm, Norton Canes Community Centre;

July 19, 4pm-7pm, Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall; July 24, 10am-1pm, Hednesford Library;

August 1, 10am-midday, Tesco, Victoria Street, Hednesford; August 7, 5pm-7pm, Cannock Leisure Centre;

August 9, midday-2pm, Sainsbury's, Voyager Drive, Cannock; August 13, 4pm-6pm, Rugeley Leisure Centre; August 16, midday-2pm, Tesco, Power Station Road, Rugeley.

First litter pick is organised for area

COMMUNITY-SPIRITED locals have donned their gloves and rubbish sacks to help tidy up their area.

In conjunction with Heath Hayes Parish Council, county councillor Phil Hewitt organised the first of what he hopes will be regular litter picks in Heath Hayes and Hawks Green.

A team of people gave up their Saturday to tackle litter left at Heath Hayes Park, paths near to Tesco and outside Heath Hayes Community Centre.

Local mothers and children were among those who teamed up with Councillor Hewitt and his partner Adie Fitzgerald as well as district councillor Martyn Buttery and county councillor Bryan Jones.

It is hoped that the clean-ups will become a regular event.

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Homes plan alongside castle gets a new look

PLANS for 1,500 homes that have been updated have been revealed.

Amended plans for the development at land west of Martin Driver, Castlefields, in Stafford, revealed changes to layout, design, access, heritage, public open space, drainage and noise issues.

It follows on from comments received from consultees, including Historic England, to the plans that were originally submitted last December by developers Taylor Wimpey.

Historic England raised concerns over the proximity of the development to the Grade II listed building Stafford Castle and the height of the buildings which would have a possible impact on the views of the landmark.

In response, adjustments have been made to the proximity of the development to the site along with adjustments to the extents of development area around the viewing corridors towards the castle.

Noise levels from the M6 will be resurveyed at each phase of the development and adjustments will be made to the design of that part of the site.

The destination park has also been relocated to be easily accessible for the Millennium footpath and cycle way.

A spokesperson for Taylor Wimpey West Midlands said: "Our application includes a range of homes to meet the needs of a variety of buyers, and we look forward to presenting it to the planning committee in due course."

Theme park wins excellence award

DRAYTON Manor Park has won a prestigious family business award of excellence.

Company director George Bryan has been awarded the prestigious EY Family Business Award of Excellence in a ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall. First introduced in 2012, the award is given out annually to recognise leaders of outstanding entrepreneurial families across the world.

Still run by the third generation of the founding Bryan family, it was originally home to former British Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, before being transformed into the Drayton Manor Theme Park.

Mr Bryan said: "I am incredibly honoured Drayton Manor has won such a highly-regarded award."

Hopwas ramble

A SEVEN-and-a-half mile walk at Hopwas, Tamworth, is on the agenda for Chase Ramblers this weekend. Departure time on Sunday is Hednesford rail station car park, Anglesey Street, at 9am prompt.

Lorry overturns spilling 100 litres of fuel

The lorry on its side *Picture: Staffordshire Fire Service*

FIREFIGHTERS spent more than seven hours overnight dealing with an overturned lorry.

Crews from Staffordshire Fire Service were initially called to Milestone Way, Burntwood, at around 6.40pm on Friday after a lorry overturned on the island.

About 100 litres of fuel was spilled on the road as a result of the crash.

Crews worked to prevent it from running into the nearby water course.

The firefighters, from Cannock and Lichfield stations, remained at the scene until 2am on Saturday assisting RS Recovery to remove the vehicle from the road.

The road was closed during the operation and the driver of the lorry was taken to hospital.

A spokesman from Staffordshire Fire Service said: "It was a road traffic collision involving one HGV lorry on the island at Milestone Way.

"Approximately 100 litres of fuel was spilt on the road, which our crews prevented from entering the water course.

"The vehicle was recovered from the scene and the driver was taken to hospital.

"Crews from Cannock and Lichfield stations were initially called to the scene at around 6.40pm, before coming away at 7pm.

"They were called back shortly after and stayed there until 2am."

West Midlands Ambulance Service and Staffordshire Police were also in attendance.

Call for powers to limit number of takeaways

MORE powers are needed to limit the number of takeaways allowed to open in Cannock, a report says.

Fast food outlets in the town have become too easy for people to access and are having an impact on poor health, according to the local authority report.

The report to this week's meeting of Cannock Chase Council's wellbeing scrutiny committee reveals that in 2017, 33.4 per cent of food outlets in the district were takeaways – the highest percentage in Staffordshire, excluding Stoke-on-Trent.

This compared with Stafford's 24.2 per cent, Lichfield's 19.2 per cent and 17.4 per cent in South Staffordshire. Cannock Chase also had the most takeaways per person in Staffordshire at 99 restaurants per 100,000.

Councillor Paul Woodhead, a member of a scrutiny group looking into the impact on health of takeaways in the town, said: "We need to have a debate about what we as a council can do and how we engage the community in helping them understand the right choices.

Choices

"There are limitations in what you can do in terms of planning regarding takeaways. McDonald's comes under a restaurant so you can't cover that the same way as a fish and chip shop – but they're both equally poor choices.

"There needs to be some national thinking about how we encourage the right choices.

"While the link between the number of takeaways and obesity levels are not conclusive, it is a significant contributing factor."

According to the report, 70 per cent of all adults in the Cannock Chase district were overweight and, of those, 36 per cent, or around 28,700 people, were obese.

The district's figures were higher than the average obesity levels for Staffordshire, West Midlands and England.

There are no statutory powers available to local authorities to directly control or limit the number of takeaways. However, Wolverhampton council agreed to such food outlets from opening within 400 metres of schools last year in a bid to tackle the city's obesity crisis.

Debut of delights in Bloom contest

James Slim, front, watched by judges Roger Bache and Stephen Middlehurst with volunteers Warren Fisher and Jane Hadley

THE sun shone brightly as Britain in Bloom judges arrived in a village to assess its first entry in the competition.

Essington in Bloom organiser James Slim hoped villagers' hard work had paid off following the visit last week.

Work has included creating gardens at the village church and school as well as cleaning the parish's Millennium Stone. Litter pickers have also been hard at work clearing the village of rubbish.

Essington in Bloom has entered the large village category of the competition.

Mr Slim, who is also a councillor in the village, said: "I've only been councillor for around five months and I thought early on it would be a great idea to enter the village into Britain in Bloom.

"If anything, it has been good seeing the village come together, young and old, for the entry."

He added: "The judges appeared impressed by what they saw. We look forward to the result in a few months. Fingers crossed."

Results of Britain in Bloom will be announced on September 20.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festival will be family friendly

THE 14th Middle of Nowhere music festival is taking place in Staffordshire later this month.

Live bands and a family atmosphere are promised at the three-day event at Lower Drayton Farm near Penkridge. There are 22 acts on two stages as well as family entertainment.

The line-up for Friday, July 27 includes Superskas and The Loveless. Saturday has The Sex P****d Dolls and Herbaceous Borders among the names while Sunday's line-up includes Xander and the Peace Pilots and The Zeppelin Three.

Visit lowerdraytonfarm.digitickets.co.uk to book tickets for the event.

Roads closed after fire at timber yard

A LARGE fire engulfed part of a timber yard and a nearby lorry.

Five fire crews were called to tackle the blaze, in Power Station Road, Rugeley, at 10.30am last Thursday, June 28

Police officers cordoned off roads and rail operators were alerted to rising smoke on the nearby Chase Line.

Staffordshire Fire Service said a number of cars and caravans were also caught up in the blaze.

Firefighters used five litres of compressed air foam to damp down. They later revisited the site for checks.

Losses down at Roadchef group

MOTORWAY service station group Roadchef, which has its head office at Norton Canes, saw its losses narrow in 2017.

The annual pre-tax loss was down from £29.4 million in the previous year to £6.5m. The group, which has service stations at Stafford South on the M6 and Norton Canes on the M6 Toll, also saw a fall in turnover from £196m to £188.8m

Roadchef operates 30 service areas at 21 motorway sites across the UK. It is the third largest in this country.

● Price increases – Page 15

Sales of pie can earn slice of cash for charity

SUPERMARKET customers can earn a crust for charity, by tucking into a pie created by ex-servicemen from a famous Armed Force recipe.

The Morrisons Veterans Pie has gone on sale at the Mill Street store.

It includes an original 'range stew' recipe – featuring British beef steak, smoky bacon and Theakston's Old Peculiar Ale – served to troops in action. A portion of the money from sales will go to Walking With The Wounded.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

Scorcher? Time to call the winter warmer line

EXCUSE the low standard of photography. Unfortunately the blistering sunshine caused by the longest heatwave since 1976 meant there was a lot of reflective glare in the windows of Dudley Council's offices when I took this picture.

Window poster

Anyway, if you can't see it clearly, it is a poster warning about the dangers of living in a cold home. Apparently it's bad for your health, with children particularly at risk of bronchitis, asthma and mental health problems. It's so bad that the council has set up a winter warmth hotline. If you are shivering in your freezing home this week, don't hesitate to dial 01384 817086. That's local government for you. On the ball as ever.

❒❒❒

JOHN Sparry, the popular Black Country historian, broadcaster and raconteur, has written a book about some of the interesting characters from his old school, King Edward VI Grammar, in Stourbridge.

He certainly has plenty of material. While the book focuses largely on literary figures, the father of the modern dictionary, Samuel Johnson, writers Bob Adey and David Gray, as well as the cartoonist Paul Sellers, former pupils include Battle of Britain hero Mike Cooper-Slipper, actor Anthony Bate, and rock star Robert Plant.

Our school days invariably leave a big impression on our lives. Which is why I was saddened to learn that my old school, High Arcal in Dudley, is to change its name to Beacon Hill Academy.

Now while my old school hardly compares with King Ed – founded in 1961 rather than 1552, and its notable alumni limited to a couple of politicians and a diplomat – the High Arcal name has served it perfectly well for 57 years, so why change it now?

Even more depressingly, the old Dudley Grammar School, which traces its history back to 1452, is changing its name for the second time in less than 30 years. Renamed Castle High School in 1989, it will now be St James's Academy.

The former Willenhall Comprehensive a few years ago changed its name to the funkier E-Act Academy. Last year it received a less-than-glowing Ofsted report, in no small part down to the fact that its pupils threw food at the inspectors. Good to know rebranding did the trick.

Water, water everywhere...but for how long?

Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer – old pals act with a different angle

Nye Bevan – as Britain marks 70 years of his NHS, we stand on the threshold of Brexit

John Cleese during his Monty Python heyday, but would he get the gig on today's BBC?

Sting in the tale of a British heatwave

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE worms may be shrivelling and the frogs dehydrating but one species is having a vintage year. I give you the horse fly, that drab little lover of human flesh. A couple of days ago one drove its pointy thing deep into my knee. From past experience this will create a scab, to be prodded and picked for months to come and providing harmless entertainment as the nights draw in. A horse-fly bite, the gift that keeps on giving.

I CANNOT be the only one genuinely surprised that there is not a nationwide hosepipe ban. It's like the savannah out there.

SAD to see so many sufferers attending the National Amnesia Day march in London. There were about 100,000 of them, all calling for a "People's Vote," having entirely forgotten we had it two years ago. Poor devils.

IT'S always good to see old friends having a laugh, as Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse do in Gone Fishing (BBC2). And yet for outsiders the old mystery of coarse fishing is as perplexing as ever. You spend hours catching the fish and taking it out of the water. Then you put it back in again. Hmm.

THERE is life beyond London and I bet many of us on the blasted heath we call the provinces are puzzled at the time, money and energy spent on the future of Heathrow. How many Brits actually use the place? Since the 1970s I have flown all over the world on dozens of occasions for business, holidays and with the military but I doubt if I've used Heathrow more than two or three times. The UK has lots of other places where airliners can take off and land perfectly well, so why this obsession with cramming so many eggs into one basket?

WHITEHALL has decided not to build five new female prisons but to erect much cheaper "residential centres" instead. This reflects a view deeply held in the criminal-justice system, that men are evil but women just have syndromes. Ironically, the announcement of the new facilities came the day after Sabrina Kouiser and her boyfriend were jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the murder, after 12 days of "pitiless" torture, of their au pair. They burned the body in their garden. Pure evil may be rarer among females than males but it undeniably exists and should be locked away for years, not in some cosy semi-hotel but behind the iron bars of a good, old-fashioned jail.

BY pure chance, the struggle to get out of the clutches of the European Union coincides with events to mark the 70th anniversary of Britain embracing the National Health Service. The NHS was a step into the unknown. It divided the nation. It was opposed by many "experts" who backed down only when Nye Bevan famously "stuffed their mouths with gold." The result, in global terms, is a middling sort of health service which is not terribly expensive and is good in some parts, but poor in others. We are supposed to be very proud of it, yet we all have our horror stories about it. But on balance we're glad we took the step into the NHS. And I dare say Brexit will be much the same. Not perfect but better than what we had before.

POSTERS for a pub beer and gin festival remind me how popular gin has become recently. On holiday, I couldn't help noticing that the brilliant little village store in Corfe Castle boasts of having 100 brands of gin. This may answer an old question: what do folk in sleepy holiday villages do during the long, dark winters?

IS he having a laugh? Head of BBC Comedy Shane Allen says the Monty Python team would not make it on the Beeb today because they are 'six Oxbridge white blokes'. But I can't recall a time when humour has been so dominated by upmarket white performers. Stand-up comedy, once the preserve of working-class comics, is now the happy hunting ground of privately-educated stars. A study of 42 episodes of Have I Got News For You (BBC) revealed that all but one of the guests had been to private schools. Maybe things are changing but I bet if John Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin and the rest of the Pythons graduated from uni tomorrow, they'd be snapped up by today's comedy producers because, whatever we may think about privilege, posh is still popular.

TALKING POINT

Upwardly mobile pupil gets top marks

THE name Andreea-Denisa Ciubotaru is hardly one that rolls off the tongue. However, the teenager should be commended.

Regular Talking Point readers may recall a colleague's view on mobile phone use around the dining table, making the point that social time was disrupted by people checking for messages, sending texts or using Facebook, for example, when conversation should be flowing between friends or family.

So it is heartening to hear 16-year-old Andreea-Denisa willingly go without her mobile phone during class time. The schoolgirl, from Barking, asked her headteacher to put her iPhone in the school safe so she could study for exams without being distracted by selfies. The device spent a month locked away and the move looked to have paid off with her GCSE grades predicted to rise from a C to an A. She was quoted as saying: "Everyone knows how addictive phones can be. I've told all my friends to get rid of theirs."

It comes as the head of schools' regulatory body Ofsted backed headteachers who ban phones in class, citing their use as being responsible for unruly behaviour.

Amanda Spielman says the use of smartphones in the classroom is 'dubious' at best and is not convinced of the educational benefits of Snapchat and the like. Culture secretary Matt Hancock has backed the stance, admitting he admires school heads who prevent pupils from using phones all day.

There's no doubt that phones can have an educational appeal and can be a valuable revision tool. But out of school time and away from the desk, please.

Can any child really say they use mobiles sensibly while at school? I would argue that a primary school child's need for a phone is minimal anyway. Certainly, older children, who make their own way to and from school, or who may need to stay behind, would require them to keep in touch with parents.

But I do wonder what these children with their fancy gadgets do at break times. Probably texting or keeping up to date with social media instead of properly interacting with their friends like we did.

It's no coincidence that even Silicon Valley executives send their children to technology-free schools, while Bill Gates and Steve Jobs limited screen time for their own children knowing how addictive they could be. Schools in this country should take heed and keep phones out of the classroom.

MARK SHIPP

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Firm builds on success with police base move

A FORMER police station is being given a new lease of life as a regional office for an expanding housebuilding firm.

Cameron Homes, which is celebrating 25 years in business, is currently located in headquarters opposite the closed station in Chasetown's High Street. It is investing £750,000 in the project.

"We are completely refurbishing the police station, which has been empty for several years, so this is good news for the town," said regional director Matthew Carr.

"Due to the expansion of the company into a wider operating area and an increasing number of houses being built we are rapidly outgrowing our Chasetown base," he added.

Cameron regional director Matt Carr outside the former police station

Bespoke

"A new 'Cameron south' office was opened this year in Stratford-upon-Avon and we have now created a 'central region' to cover Staffordshire and the West Midlands – to be based in the old station.

Mr Carr said the ground floor of the building would also include bespoke training facilities.

"Cameron was recently awarded 'five-star' builder status by the House Builders' Federation and we have just won two National House Building Council site manager awards. It is important that we build on these successes as we move forward together.

"These new training facilities will help to provide our teams with the skills they need. We will be moving in later this summer," he said.

The company has taken on around 40 new staff in the last 12 months and is launching a recruitment drive.

Campaign to tackle slavery

SMALL businesses across Staffordshire are being encouraged to join the fight to combat Modern Day Slavery.

Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis has got Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce on board to support the fight and encourage businesses to pledge to the awareness campaign.

Currently only businesses with a turnover exceeding £36m are required by law to ensure their supply chain is free from slavery, but all organisations can play their part. The Chamber is working with the Voice of Hope to deliver training and awareness across the county, taking a stand against the crime.

Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire, Sue Arnold, said: "No matter how big or small, all businesses need to be aware of this crime and the role they play."

Staffordshire Chamber chief executive Sara Williams said: "Modern slavery and human trafficking are abhorrent crimes."

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Cash towards treatment for Parkinson's

I WOULD like to thank Mrs Stocks and all her many helpers at their Parkinson's Awareness Day. Everyone from friends and neighbours to Asda, Cannock, Clive Lilley (butchers), Jessica's fruit and veg and The Yew Tree pub, Norton Canes.

Just over £500 went towards finding a treatment, maybe a cure. One last point so many people know of someone, maybe a friend or relative with it, so we must keep on trying. Thank you.

LES TAYLOR
Cannock

Flowers praise

MAY I praise Cannock Council for the wonderful flower beds on traffic islands and town centres? They are very much appreciated.

JUDITH WALTERS
Hednesford

No upgrades on the roads in 60 years

I SENT a letter to Staffordshire Highways Department more than 12 months ago. No answer. I had said that the roads in Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes were the same roads, that when I was a lad, had horses and carts on them, the same roads are now taking 42-44 ton wagons. No real upgrade in 60 years.

The roads are deteriorating at an alarming rate. Potholes, sunken manholes and worn out road surfaces. If you were to follow me in my car, you might think I was on drugs or tipsy. What I am trying to do is miss the craters and parts of the road that are breaking up.

Where's all the money? Millions of pounds given to Staffordshire County Council for road repairs. Nothing is being done. I reported a hole by the lights in one street. They put a little tarmac in, but in just a few days in was bad again. I reported a hole in road surface on Hill Street, Hednesford, October 2017. I was told it had a 60-day notice on it. Nothing done! The surface has been like that for two years now.

It was a sad day when Cannock Council got rid of the Highways Department, and handed it to Stafford.

MALCOLM EDWARDS
Hednesford

Praise for strangers' assistance after fall

ON June 22, at approximately 11.15am, walking home from Cannock town centre, my right foot caught an uneven pavement flagstone, opposite the Job Centre, resulting in a heavy fall. I needed treatment at both Cannock Hospital A&E and New Cross for facial, hands and knee injuries.

I would like to thank all the people who kindly helped me, especially the lady and gent who helped me up and the Job Centre staff member who took me in to recover, as I was slightly suffering from concussion.

Also special thanks to the lady who took my arm and helped me to Cannock A&E. I so appreciate the care and consideration I was given by complete strangers.

PETER ALFRED HULL
Cannock

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

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Volunteers add spark to old centre

RE the article on We Love Lichfield aid (Chronicle, June 21

I recently attended the We Love Lichfield grant awards ceremony in Lichfield but did not receive money for my group as stated in your article. I was there to express my thanks to the generosity of the WLL organisation who donated money to our group last year. As part of Spark we, the volunteers keep alive the former Children's Centre at Springhill in Burntwood providing a much needed resource for local families.

We are always in need of funding and new volunteers to keep the centre running, so I will be hoping to apply next year.

JEAN SPRAGGETT
Spark Grandparents' Group

Young soldiers fought for freedom and democracy

MR Williams (Chronicle letters, June 21) wants to raise the voting age to 21 or even 25. This would make us the most undemocratic country in Europe.

We should not forget how many young soldiers gave their lives in the two World Wars so we can enjoy freedom and democracy – and more would do so today if our freedom were threatened again.

If we expect our young people to fight and die for our country, the least we can do is give them the right to vote.

CLARE SHOLL
Burntwood

Smaller buses and open competition is needed

HOW typical of Mr Paul Witton (Letters, June 21) to propose public ownership for loss making bus services and support the illusion of economies of scale.

There we have socialism in a nutshell, losses forever at taxpayers' expense and belief that a monolithic enterprise is the answer to all our ills. What we really need is a high-tech solution for journey modification en route, smaller buses, open competition but above all, less regulation so that smaller operators can enter the market.

GRAHAME WIGGIN
Heath Hayes

● More letters on Page 12

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Club in the driving seat to end polio

Rotary Club of Cannock

Kim and David Marklew

DAVID & Kim Marklew, representing the Rotary Club of Cannock, took their Mini for The Purple4Polio Rotary Grand Tour.

Clubs across the country joined the road trip, visiting as many of the check and photo points as possible, raising money and awareness for End Polio Now.

For more than 30 years Rotary has been working to rid the world of polio. This tour was designed to promote its campaign, covering 1,000 miles and raising funds to immunise 1,000 children to go with its theme of a Grand being 1,000.

Starting at Trentham Gardens on day one, the trip took in Birmingham, Coventry, Alcester, Stratford and Lichfield, before heading north on day two to Newcastle upon Tyne and back again via city centres, tourist spots and designated checkpoints in Leeds, Wakefield and Sheffield.

David and Kim covered 1,000 miles over three days, taking in some 20 checkpoints and locations along the way and have raised more than £450 to date. Every £1 raise is doubled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Charity so for every £1 raised Rotary gets £3.

Phoenix Project is the subect of talk

President June Bould with Nikki Archer of the Phoenix Project, St Giles Hospice

Cannock Soroptimists

SI Cannock was delighted to welcome Nikki Archer, supportive care director & lead for bereavement service at St Giles Hospice, to the June meeting.

She gave an interesting and informative presentation on the Phoenix Project, an innovative project, organised within St Giles Hospice and is specifically designed to provide support to children and young people under 18, who have lost their parents or a close family member.

Support is given in various ways tailored to the young person's age. The project also aims to provide practical advice to a bereaved adult and emotional support through talking to other parents in similar situations. The project works with local schools and other agencies to identify children who would benefit from its work.

Nikki said each year in Staffordshire there were estimated to be 260 bereaved parents and approximately 440 newly bereaved children. She read a young girls experience of losing her father, which, although emotional to hear, highlighted the value of the project from the family's perspective. President June Bould has chosen the project as her chosen charity.

Cream tea and choral singers

Hednesford A TWG

THE chairman and the health secretary attended the funeral of former member Anne Hogarth.

Unfortunately due to the time span and location of the funerals, they could not attend that of Audrey Evans on the same day.

Members were asked by the Federation to donate any broken or unwanted jewellery for charity. In July members will enjoy a cream tea, and be entertained by the South Staffordshire Choir. Monthly speaker Reverend Lynne Morris, for many years an NHS nurse, gave some wonderful anecdotes.

Joy Hayward gave thanks and the treasurer presented Lynne with a cheque.

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Announcements must be supplied by 12noon on Monday For the same weeks publication.

You can now share your happy news by placing your family announcement in Cannock & Rugeley Chronicles

CHRONICLE

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Space scheme ready for its summer launch

SPACE is ready for lift-off as as the finishing touches are put to the launch of this summer's programme.

The launch is just a few weeks away, with organisers expecting the 'best Space yet'. This year's scheme will involve more youngsters with a lowering of the age band for certain activities.

Some activities will be available for children as young as eight, with Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis, who introduced the scheme, having provided a substantial increase in funding.

Space attracted more than 1,8000 attendees in 2017 – an increase of 5,669 from 2016. Mr Ellis said: "Not long to wait now until Space 2018 begins – it should be a very exciting year."

For updates, use #StaffsSpace2018 on Twitter @StaffsSpace

See also facebook.com/StaffsSpace/ and @StaffsSpace on Instagram.

For updates, go to Staffordshire.space.uk or email space@staffordshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Derelict pub 'blighting trade'

CALLS for action to be taken at a derelict pub site in Chase Terrace which is 'blighting' other trades have been made.

It is claimed the premises are also affecting attempts to improve the shopping area.

Councillors Eric Drinkwater and Sue Woodward say they want to see drastic improvements made at the former Royal Oak pub at Sankey's Corner.

They say the premises are having a negative impact on other businesses.

Nowhere

County councillor Woodward, who represents the Burntwood North ward on Staffordshire County Council and is the leader of the opposition Labour group, said: "It's a real blight on the centre of the town.

"A couple of years ago, we'd set up a community initiative to make the place look a bit more attractive with murals by local schoolchildren. Just as we were about to start, a planning application was submitted so we had to pull the plug on it.

"Yet the application went nowhere.

Councillors Eric Drinkwater and Sue Woodward are calling for action to improve the former Royal Oak

"We've had lots of warm words from Lichfield District Council about the need to improve the shopping areas in Burntwood, particularly this one," she added.

"At last, we are seeing a new retail area being built through private developers but this doesn't let them off the hook."

The pub, which was run by Coors, is understood to have been shut for up to 10 years, according to Councillor Woodward.

Councillor Drinkwater said the pub had been a problem in the town for a number of years now – and called for action to be taken.

He added: "This site has been an eyesore for many years.

"We've pressed Lichfield District Council time and again to act but nothing has happened."

The property lease was passed to Molson Coors when the previous pub tenant closed its doors.

A council spokesperson said: "We are working closely with our property agents to identify a suitable business that supports the local community in Burntwood, and we will continue to maintain the premises to ensure the site is a sound investment for potential tenants."

Colourful show will take music fans back to 80s

THE biggest hits of the 1980s will be celebrated in colourful tribute show.

Currently taking the UK by storm, 80s Mania, Europe's official reunion concert of the influential decade, stops off at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre from 7.30pm tonight (Thursday).

It will featue the music of 25 chart-topping pop stars including Duran Duran, Human League, Culture Club, Wham!, Madness, Madonna, Spandau Ballet, Cyndi Lauper, Adam Ant, Bananarama, Erasure, Soft Cell, Dead or Alive, Kim Wilde and more.

Joining the pop stars of the 1980s on stage will be the New Romantic Band and the energetic 80s Mania dancers, with 150 costume changes and more than 35 smash hits, including Don't You Want Me, Call Me, Relax, Tainted Love, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Karma Chameleon, Holiday, Kids in America, Stand and Deliver, Venus, Respect, I Think We're Alone Now, Baggy Trousers, Rio and Electric Dreams.

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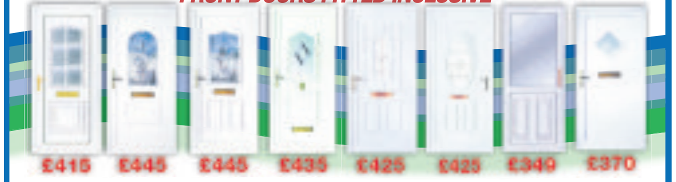

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‘Do right thing’ plea in murder appeal

Arthur Gumbley

AN appeal to catch the killers of a pensioner who was attacked in a violent robbery was made on BBC’s Crimewatch.

Arthur Gumbley, aged 87, died in hospital three weeks after the attack at his home in Little Aston, near Sutton Coldfield. Detectives called on people with information about the grandfather’s death to ‘do the right thing’. Footage was shown on Crimewatch Roadshow of Arthur, who was known as Bob, recalling the horror in hospital shortly before he died.

A number of cherished items were stolen in the robbery last November including a ring which was ripped from his finger and a Henry VIII Angel gold coin which police are keen to trace. Five people have been arrested in connection with Arthur’s death but nobody has yet been charged. A £40,000 reward has been put up.

Detective Inspector Dan Ison said: “There is somebody out there who is responsible for Arthur’s death. The right thing to do is to make contact with us and talk to us.”

Village mining tribute riddle solved by sculptor

THE puzzle over an unassembled monument for miners has been solved after the sculptor came forward.

Community leaders in Essington were scratching their heads when given the bricks, but no plan, for the monument.

But following an appeal in the Chronicle’s sister paper, the Express & Star, its maker, sculptor Michael Thomas, has come forward and put it together.

He cast the bricks at Ibstock’s Lodge Lane factory 14 years ago for the Black Country Living Museum.

Essington Parish Council has since picked up the monument after the museum said it no longer wanted it.

The only person who knew how to put it together was Mr Thomas and he recently visited councillors.

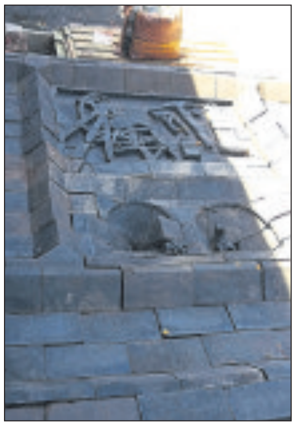
Mr Thomas, who grew up in Wolverhampton and now lives in Stoke, said: “It was great to see the bricks again after so many years and then to help put it together again. I often wondered where it was so I was lucky I saw the article in the newspaper.”

Councillor Ken Pace was there to help. He said: “It was fortunate he heard about this, because without him it would have proved a very hard job.”

The council is to next submit a planning application for the monument in the village. It is hoped it will go up near St John’s Church.

Essington has a strong link to mining with the village dominated with underground coal mines.

The bricks for the mining monument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LETTERS EXTRA

I saw car roll into Porsche

IN response to the letter from Judy Littler, I was the witness to the damage causes to her vehicle (Chronicle, June 28).

I watched in horror as a parked vehicle rolled into the Porsche causing a lot of damage – clearly the driver had not applied the handbrake? – only then to watch the owner return and try to stop the rolling vehicle, but then got into the vehicle and drove off without waiting or leaving her details. I followed the vehicle to obtain the registration number.

I then rang the police on 101 non-emergency and was in an 'on hold' queue for 42 minutes before being cut off. A few hours later I managed to get through to 101 and gave all the details. From Judy's letter to this paper I have managed to get in touch with her only to find out, to my disbelief, that there had been no contact from the police.

I have now given Judy the details and I really hope she gets this matter resolved.

K SARGEANT
Heath Hayes

'Computer error' more technical

I HAVE had several occurrences just lately where 'computer error' was my answer from the other party involved.

Computers are logically 100 per cent correct, so we're told.

Computer output relies on inputs. So who's inputting the incorrect input?

Glad I have the sense to chase the 'computer errors' up.

As an afterthought, perhaps the poor folk on the opposite side of the counter to people like me are instructed to say 'error' because it sounds more technical than 'fault'.

PHILIP EVANS
Great Wyrley

Concerts a tribute to musician

ALAN Williams was a well-known and well-respected musician in this area.

To mark the 10th anniversary of his death St Stephen's Choir are presenting two concerts as a tribute to a man who brought so much to the music scene locally. The first is on Friday, July 6 but the second will be an event for everyone.

If you benefited from Alan's expertise in either Kingsmead Arts Society, Staffordshire Youth Choir, Cannock Chase Operatic Society or in any other way you are invited to attend the concert on Saturday, October 6 or to take part in it.

If you are interested please contact us by either emailing dgweducation@gmail.com or leaving a message on 07989 547389.

DAVID WILLIAMS
Great Haywood

Donations help to give children a short break

JUST after her first birthday, my daughter Shakeerah was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

She is now six. She's a bundle of joy but her disability has impacted on almost every area of our lives. Short breaks provide children like my daughter with a safe environment, allowing her to interact with other children.

The Children's Trust, the charity that provides her with short breaks, has launched The Little Break Appeal. You can donate online www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk

YASMEEN CROWTHER
Shakeerah's mum

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Did anyone see theft?

LAST week we moved our daughter from her flat in Hannaford Way, Cannock.

Whilst going back and forth to load the car someone stole a blue recycling box filled with items for the new home.

If anyone in the flats opposite saw who took this can they please phone 01543 271728.

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£500k drug gang head must pay back just £69

A DRUG kingpin who made £500,000 funnelling cocaine through the Midlands will have to pay back just £69.

Authorities went after Russell Degg's drugs money but found he had no assets to take. Degg, from Cannock, was one of four people jailed last year, over a lucrative drugs operation.

The details were revealed during a Proceeds of Crime hearings at Stafford Crown Court linked to the jailing of 23 people. The court heard cocaine and methadrone were supplied by the Cannock-based crime gang to dealers across the Midlands. Arrests were made following a lengthy investigation by Staffordshire police, codenamed Operation Dynamo, which led to the conspirators being jailed for a total of 132 years in October last year.

Profited

Inquiries revealed Degg, of Repton Close, was said to have made £500,000 but had almost no realisable assets. He must pay the £69 within three months.

Darren Pearson, 46, of Moss Street, Cannock, who was jailed for seven years, was said to have profited by just over £32,000 but also had no assets. He will have to pay just £23.46.

Lucy Butler, 35, of Sanderling Close, Featherstone, who was jailed for four years, has been ordered to pay £145 by July 30. Bret Appleton, 25, of Locketts Court, Cannock, who received a 20-month sentence, will have to pay back £1,176 in three months. Derek Hodgkiss, 56, of St Johns Road, Cannock, must pay £406 by the same date.

Kyle Wilson, 19, of Merrivale Road, Stafford, who received 14 months detention, will have to give back £185 by the end of July, while Shane Andrews, 35, of John Donne Street, Stafford, who was jailed for eight years, was said to have benefited by almost £41,000, but will have to pay £745 within two months. A father and son from Swindon, said to have made more than £600,000 from deals will have to pay back just over £8,000. Gary Peapell, 38, who was jailed for eight years and eight months, gained by £310,000 and will pay back £1,905. Keith Peapell, 62, who was jailed for six years, made £297,000. Available cash was said to be £6,124, to be paid in three months.

Kingpin Russell Degg to pay £69

Lucy Butler must pay back £145

Darren Pearson must pay £23.46

Shane Andrews, of Stafford – £745 order

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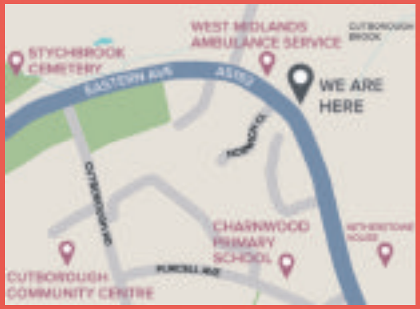

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'Stay away' warning over high-voltage rail danger

CHILDREN living between Walsall and Rugeley are being urged to stay off the railway line, which is being upgraded between the two towns.

Network Rail's community safety team has been visiting schools in the West Midlands and Staffordshire as part of the electrification of the railway, which will see electric trains running between Walsall and Rugeley for the first time.

During the visits, primary and secondary school age children learn about the dangers of trespassing on the railway and the new threat of 25,000 volt overhead line equipment and the devastating consequences of getting too close or coming into contact with the wires.

The rail safety message is being taken to schools by Network Rail

Trespassing

Lisa Lewis, community safety manager at Network Rail, said: "Safety is our priority and we've already delivered our presentation to more than 4,000 young people in schools. The sessions are doing a fantastic job at highlighting the very real dangers of playing and trespassing on the railway.

"The sessions focus on safety and young people learn more about the overhead line equipment which is used to power trains. Once installed, electrified wires are always switched on, even when there are no trains passing. They carry 25,000 volts of electricity, which can be fatal.

"Our message is simple – never trespass on the railway for any reason."

Network Rail is investing £100m into electrifying and upgrading the line between Walsall and Rugeley.

Train firm sponsors festival

WEST Midlands Trains has been announced as Lichfield Festival's new principal partner for 2018.

The company's support is a vital boost to the Midlands' premier multi-arts festival which brings world-class music, arts and entertainment to the city each July.

Together Lichfield Festival and West Midlands Trains are keen to encourage festival-goers to travel to Lichfield by train – via frequent London Northwestern Railway services to/from Lichfield Trent Valley and West Midlands Railway services to/from Lichfield City.

Many Festival venues are just a short walk from Lichfield City.

On the first Saturday of the Festival (July 7) visitors will also be able to hop on a West Midlands Trains-sponsored land train for a free tour around the city.

This will pick up and drop off outside the Garrick Theatre between 10am and 3.30pm.

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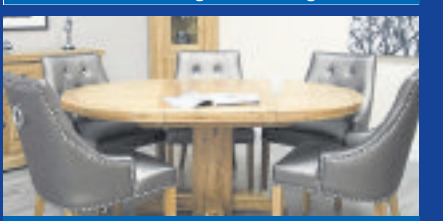

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New-look restaurant is order of the day

Amanda Milling MP with franchisee David Knight and workers

ON the menu for Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling was cutting the ribbon to open a new-look McDonald's restaurant.

The Conservative MP unveiled the refurbished restaurant in Hemlock Way, Hawks Green. The digital makeover, followed a significant investment from franchisee David Knight.

At the heart of the transformation is self-ordering digital kiosks, which enable customers to browse the menu and personalise their meals, allow more time to make their choices. Ms Milling said: "David has made a huge investment in his business and the local area and is a fantastic example of how businesses leaders can work with their local community to make a positive impact."

Franchisee Mr Knight, said: "The investment in Cannock is designed to make our customers' experience as positive as possible – whether that's providing people with a chance to get to grips with using a tablet in a relaxed environment, or providing parents with a quick and easy way of ordering their food.."

Road's bosses urged to halt toll price increases

M6 Toll bosses have been urged to scrap price increases over fears they could force more people onto congested motorways.

Midlands Express Ltd (MEL) has announced that rises of up to 50p for cars and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) will come in on July 30.

It marks the second increase in prices in a year, after a 40p hike for cars last August.

The move has been criticised by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, who warned the price rises flew in the face of the region's attempts to improve air quality and risked driving traffic off the toll road and back onto the gridlocked free-to-use M6.

A letter to MEL signed by Mr Street and the combined authority's seven council leaders, said: "We are extremely disappointed at the decision by Midland Expressway Ltd (MEL), operator of the M6 Toll, to increase charges.

"We trust that MEL will reconsider these price increases and work with us on improving air quality and managing congestion, two of the biggest challenges this region faces."

Andy Cliffe, chief executive of MEL, said: "We are committed to encouraging more vans and HGVs off the M6 and onto the M6 Toll and our price rises for commercial vehicles have been carefully set to ensure that we continue the significant growth in HGV traffic on the M6 Toll that we saw in 2017."

RAC Foundation director Steve Gooding has called for the toll on the route to be scrapped entirely.

Youngest and oldest sought for relaunch

THE youngest and oldest residents of a village are being sought for a relaunch of the community library.

The Rotary Club of Rugeley has taken over the running of Brereton library from Staffordshire County Council.

To mark the new management, takeover, Rotarians are holding an event at the library on July 20 and club president John Wilson wants the oldest and youngest resident of the village to feature.

He said: "We are appealing for them so one can show how valuable the library has been, and the other can be shown the potential."

The library is one of 23 in the county to have been transferred to community management.

It currently has between 300 and 400 visitors a week.

But the Rotary club aims to increase the numbers by holding more community events, such as story telling and family research sessions.

Mr Wilson said: "We are turning it into more of a community hub, not just a place where people can borrow books from."

Anyone who can answer the appeal for the youngest and oldest resident in the village should call the library on 01889 869067 or email library@rugeleyrotary.org.uk

Drivers warned of temporary lights

DRIVERS face delays when temporary traffic lights are put in place on the A513 Lichfield Road near Milford Common.

Motorists can expect hold-ups along the road from the A513 Lichfield Road, near Shugborough Hall, from July 9.

Multi-way traffic signals will be there while Western Power carry out work until July 13.

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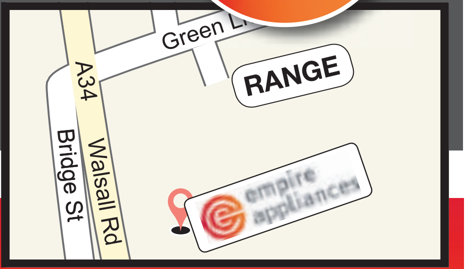
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Not a day missed in 11 years at school

Never missed a day at school – Charlotte Bleakley, aged 16, with head teacher Mark Mayden, of Erasmus Darwin

A DEDICATED secondary school pupil has scored top marks with her teachers after receiving a perfect attendance record.

Brownhills teenager Charlotte Bleakley, aged 16, was congratulated by staff at Erasmus Darwin Academy, in Burntwood, for her achievement.

She has completed 11 years – or 2,280 consecutive days – at schools without taking single day's absence for either holiday or sickness. That includes her five years at Erasmus Darwin and six years at Watling Street School before that. She has been awarded with a certificate by the school for her achievement.

Charlotte's father Keith said he and wife Lesley are very proud of their daughter's commitment. She decided in year two that after achieving no absences she wanted to carry it through until she left school.

Mr Bleakley said: "She has done every day at school since was in nursery. It is an amazing achievement. We are very proud of her."

JCB's £50m investment creates jobs at new plant

JCB is investing more than £50 million in a new Staffordshire plant which will create hundreds of jobs and double production of cabs used on its machines.

The factory at Beamhurst on the A50, near Uttoxeter, will replace the existing JCB Cab Systems site at Riverside, Rugeley, where more than 400 work.

Plans to move to the site 15 miles away were first revealed in December 2013.

Work is underway on the 350,000 sq ft factory, next to two existing JCB plants.

The hi-tech factory will have the capacity to produce around 100,000 cabs a year.

An aerial view of the site

Robotic

It will include a computer-controlled production line, fully-automated painting facility and robotic welding and will create more than 200 jobs by 2022.

JCB chief executive Graeme Macdonald said: "This new factory will be the most advanced and productive cab facility in the world and will bring even greater levels of efficiency to the business.

"The investment is one of the biggest in the company's history and underlines our commitment to manufacturing in Britain and in our home county of Staffordshire."

Burton and Uttoxeter MP Andrew Griffiths, who is also Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, said: "This is fantastic news for Uttoxeter, for Staffordshire and also the wider Midlands economy.

"This investment represents a massive boost for the area and underlines what a great place Staffordshire is to do business.

"It's wonderful to see JCB continuing to invest in the county and in British manufacturing."

The plant is scheduled to open in the summer of 2019.

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Pupils step out in support of teacher Helen

A SUMMER fair and sponsored walk will raise money for Parkinson's UK today (Thurs).

St John's First School in Bishops Wood, is supporting the charity after teacher Helen Wright, a 34-year-old mother-of-two from Penkridge, was diagnosed with the condition.

Children will dress in blue – the Parkinson's UK colour – for the walk and will be sponsored for how many laps they complete in 40 minutes.

The summer fair will follow at the White Oak Drive school and will be open to the public from 3.15-4.30pm. Attractions include a bouncy castle, penalty shoot-out and stalls, as well as refreshments and ice creams.

Donations can be made at https://www.justgiving.com/stjohnswalkforparkinsons

Parkinson's UK is the leading charity driving better care, treatments and quality of life for those with the condition.

Firm hopes to have a hand in building up sport for youngsters

A BUILDING company has announced a new phase of a record-breaking sports sponsorship deal.

Cameron Homes, which has its head office in Chasetown, is providing a £45,000 package to boost girls' handball in the Midlands.

Following the success of the three-year project to engage more female pupils in the sport the company has re-affirmed its commitment by funding professional development for teachers.

"The initiative has successfully engaged with over 15 schools in the region over the last few years, boosting involvement considerably," said Danielle Goffe-Wood of Cameron Homes.

"We have now responded to the lack of opportunities for teaching staff to develop their knowledge and understanding of this rapidly evolving sport by funding a series of training events."

Some of the handball players and teachers at Chase Terrace Technology College

The programme is being led by Nenad 'Pop' Popovic, England Handball Association staff coach and a former teacher.

He commented: "Handball is now a core sport at GCSE level and many teachers do not have the knowledge or experience to teach the sport confidently.

"Cameron has responded to my concerns and has provided the funding to allow courses to be delivered for teachers in the secondary sector throughout the West Midlands."

Cameron currently also supports three girls' handball clubs, with Olympia Cannock being the current national league and cup winners at under 19 level.

Remaining course dates are today, Thursday, from 3.45 – 5.45pm at Kings Heath Boys School, Hollybank Roadin Birmingham; tomorrow, Friday, from 1.30 – 3.30pm at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Stickley Lane, Dudley; Tuesday July 10, from 3.45 – 5.45pm at Chase Terrace Technology College, Bridgecross Road

Anyone interested in taking part should contact scoreuk@gmail.com

Work on new cathedral cross nearly complete

A CABINET maker is near to completing work on an oak and steel cross, which will hang in Lichfield Cathedral from September.

Dylan Hartley Cabinet Makers, from Jackfield near Ironbridge, have been busy crafting a new cross for Lichfield Cathedral over the past two months.

The construction, which is three meters tall and over two and a half meters wide, will be transported to Lichfield later this week and will hang in the cathedral for generations to come.

Dylan Hartley, craftsman and owner of the Shropshire business, said: "I have over 45 years experience in the wood working business and this is probably the most prestigious project to date.

"The challenge as a cabinetmaker was to put the oak together to meet the expectation that this could hang in one of our finest medieval cathedrals for the next 500 years."

The cross weighs 300 kilograms and is made from European oak with a stainless steel core, covered with linen and 15 layers of a white gesso paint.

Five cash machines disappear a month

MORE than five free-to-use cash machines are lost in the Black Country every month – and experts are now warning that rural villagers may soon face difficulties obtaining money.

The figures are part of a study into the impact of bank branch closures.

In November there were 1,440 cash dispensers in the Black Country but now there are 1,408, according to consumer group Which?

Walsall saw the biggest rate drop, down from 333 to 318, followed by Dudley, 369 to 356 and Sandwell, 387 to 381. Wolverhampton saw a small increase, from 351 to 353.

In South Staffordshire the number dropped from 63 to 59, in Stafford from 123 to 116 while Cannock was up one from 104 to 105.

In a statement, Which? said: "These cuts could see millions of people who rely on cash in their daily lives struggling through these closures, with severe consequences for many communities and businesses."

The consumer group has put the closures down to changes in the way dispenser operators charge for usage.

Brought in by shared banking network LINK, the fee which banks pay the operators of machines for withdrawals falls from 25p to 20p.

In Essington, there are no ATMs. The nearest is at the Scotlands in Wolverhampton, or Wednesfield.

Parish council chairman Peter Lever said: "It would be handy for the residents to have a cash machine nearby. Shops depend on money being spent so it would help to have somewhere to get the cash.

"It's something I will raise at the next parish council meeting."

Mike Cherry, national chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "Coupled with more than 2,000 bank branch closures over the past three years, this fresh attack on free access to cash is hurting high streets all over the country."

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Bird photo wins prize in calendar contest

A photographer from Cannock has won a national wildlife photography competition.

Enthusiast Les Arnott entered his picture of a goldfinch for the Wilko Wild Bird Calendar competition. He was awarded the prize of a £100 Wilko voucher and selected as one of 12 winners to be featured in the store's official 2019 calendar.

The winning picture

"I was delighted to discover that I had won and that my photo would be used in the 2019 calendar, said Les. "I have a great passion for photography and wildlife. This photo was taken through my front window where I have a magnolia tree with feeders to attract the garden birds."

Operating theatre safety fears aired over hospital

AN OPERATING theatre was shut at Cannock Hospital over safety fears, an inspection has revealed.

Staff were also found to be wearing gowns and hats that had been used in theatre – which went against policy.

The findings have been revealed in the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) report on the hospital in Brunswick Road.

Cannock Chase Hospital

During the visit officials inspected two surgical wards and went into three theatres at the hospital. One of the four operating theatres was closed due to its unsatisfactory condition as there were loose tiles and an unsatisfactory seal on the doors, which compromised the air pressure control, it was said.

The report found that some infection prevention and control processes were also not robust.

There were also inconsistencies around the world health organisation check lists, with some staff not completing some stages.

Cannock Chase Hospital maintains its 'requires improvement' rating from its last report in September 2015. However the CQC has not finished its inspection and will give its final rating at a later date.

Briggs' record £60k is raised for Newlife

THIS year has been a record breaker for staff fundraising at Cannock-based Briggs Equipment, with employees raising almost £30,000 for Newlife, the charity that donates specialist equipment to support disabled and terminally-ill children across the UK. Briggs matches the funds raised by employees so the total donated to Newlife was £60,000.

Every year Briggs asks staff to nominate a number of UK charities that are shortlisted and put to staff for a vote. Rose Langley completed a six-part running challenge and hosted a car boot sale raising over £2,300.

Staff took part in a variety of other challenges and fundraising events, from team activities to individual challenges and office-based fun. A team skydive raised almost £7,000, whilst the Scottish team raised more than £2,000 by taking part in the Arochar Alps 3 mountain challenge.

Individual efforts included Toni Collier's London Marathon on an extremely hot day raising £3,200.

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Households getting used to bin changes

HOMES in the Stafford borough have a change to their bin collection.

Stafford Borough Council has distributed calender leaflets to households telling them which day their bin will be collected.

It is part of new recycling and waste contractor Veolia's plan to make the service more efficient – particularly with the increase in houses in the area over the last few years.

The council says the system will stay the same – with the green bin for rubbish collected on one week and the blue recycling and brown garden waste bin emptied on the same day the alternate week.

For information go to www.staffordbc.gov.uk/binday

Cannock Chase in the top 10 districts for most smokers

CANNOCK Chase is in the top 10 worst districts for most male smokers in the UK, a new study has found.

The findings reveal that almost 30 per cent of men in the district choose to smoke.

Vapourcore.com carried out the research to investigate the differences in gender smoking habits.

It found that Cannock Chase was the 10th highest, with 27.7 per cent of male smokers in the area.

Charles Bloom, managing director of Vapourcore.com, said: "It is common knowledge that men hold a slightly higher smoking rate than women – in the UK, 17.7 per cent of men are current smokers in comparison to 14.1 per cent of women.

"However, these levels are beginning to peter out.

"As fewer people decide against lighting up, the gender gap begins to shift and draw closer."

Vapourcore spent time analysing figures provided by the Office for National Statistics and Public Health England, pulling together data to expose the local authorities in England where men and women smoke the most – and least.

Nationally, latest statistics on smoking revealed that 15.5 per cent of adults in England smoke.

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Former head to look back at area's past

TALES from days gone by up to the present time will be the order of the occasion at the latest Chadsmoor History Society talk that is being held today (Thursday).

Society chairperson Muriel Davis and former Chadsmoor Infant School headteacher Gwen White will come together to reminisce about the past and also talk about what the village has to offer in the present day.

The talk will take place at 7.30pm at Chadsmoor Methodist Church – with all welcome to attend.

Tea and coffee will also be served during the course of the evening.

Mrs Davis, who has been chairperson since the society's formation in 2015, said: "Although some think Chadsmoor is only a small place it has a very rich history and many points of interest.

"I hope that the talk will be of interest to all with Gwen also being someone who many people in the area will have spoken to and worked with over the years thanks to her long service with the local infants school."

This night comes on the back of a successful coffee morning held on Saturday, June 23 which saw more than 150 people in attendance and over £300 being raised for the society.

Charity evening to test brain power

Derek Taylor at JLH Languages' stall at the summer fair at Glenthorne Primary School, Cheslyn Hay

A CHARITY French evening is being held on Thursday, July 12, at Caffe del Nino in Cannock.

The French event is the idea of JLH Languages, a Cheslyn Hay-based company which provides French lessons to adults as a form of 'brain gym'.

People will have a go at ordering their drinks in French and take the challenge by matching six different wines to their descriptions.

In addition, there will be French cheese platters, French music and, to reinforce the Gallic ambiance, the opportunity to wear something French.

(but do not worry - this is not compulsory!)

The aim of the evening is to attract people who are interested in learning French or in practising the French they already know.

Jane Handley, owner of JLH Languages, said; "Research indicates that learning a foreign language is a very effective form of workout for the brain."

The evening will also raise funds for local dementia charities. Visit www.jlhlanguages.org or call 07793 556020.

Breweries raise a glass after medals

BREWERIES from Abbots Bromley, Stafford, Upper Gornal and Walsall came away with medals from the Society of Independent Brewers' Midlands Beer Awards.

Backyard Brewhouse in Brownhills took silver for Blonde in the bottled and canned bitter category and bronze for its 4.5 per cent Gold in cask premium pale ales. Slater's Ales from Stafford won bronze in bottled and canned session India pale ales for four per cent strength Top Totty.

Navigation Brewery of Nottingham won overall gold in cask for its Saviour ale and Thornbridge Brewery in Bakewell was overall bottle and can winner for Melba.

Fownes Brewing Company from Upper Gornal won silver in cask dark beers (up to 4.4 per cent) for 4.4 per center Korvak's Saga: Chapter II – Burden and bronze in cask strong beers for Hand of Doom, which is 8.2 per cent.

The awards were judged at Nottingham Rugby Club as part of the SIBA Midlands beer festival.

The Ticket

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JAZZ IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO CURTIS

INSIDE

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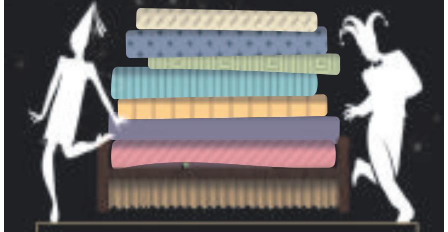

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Sinatra and all that jazz for star Curtis

Back in the day, Curtis Stigers was the man with the flowing locks and the pin-up looks. The singer enjoyed a string of chart successes in the early 1990s, including the international smash hits I Wonder Why and You're All That Matters To Me.

And yet becoming part of the international jet set was something that didn't sit well. He was more interested in playing the music close to his heart – jazz and swing – than he was making a dent in the charts.

And so he began an alternative career. Curtis exited the arenas and stadiums into which he'd briefly been placed and started doing the rounds at jazz clubs and bars. That was 17 years ago and his jazzy versions of pop songs have made him ever-popular in the USA and Europe. These days, his records don't make the chart – and that's exactly how he likes it.

He's back on the road with a show that pays homage to the greatest of them all – Frank Sinatra – and will headline Birmingham's Town Hall on July 13 with a show called Sinatra At The Sands, in which he'll perform with The Ronnie Scott's Big Band.

Curtis will channel the hip, swinging chemistry of Frank Sinatra and the Count Basie Orchestra in celebration of the classic album Sinatra at the Sands. It follows the release last year of his latest album, One More For The Road, with the Danish Radio Big Band.

Not that Stigers will party like Ol' Blue Eyes after the show. "I'm old enough to know that I shouldn't have a drink of whisky to end the night. That's always been a downfall for me. The next day is a very bad day if I do that. If I'm going to have something strong, I'm going to start with it. Once I'm done with it, I'm a big fan of a nice glass of red wine, so I'd switch to that. It'd have to be red wine only because I'm too smart to hurt myself as badly as I did when I was young.

OUTSPOKEN

"Listen to me, children! Do not mix drinks at the end of the night. It seems like a great idea when they bring out a bottle of nice Scotch whisky but once they do that, you're in trouble."

Curtis is one of rock'n'roll's more cultured performers. A delightful raconteur and outspoken politico, his Twitter feed is one of the more entertaining that there is.

He frequently rails against the 'poison' of USA President Donald Trump and also tackles such commentators as Katie Hopkins in no-punches-pulled discourse.

"He's just a nightmare for everyone. I think in the long-run, even the people who support him will rue the day that they decided to vote for him. He doesn't care about anybody except himself. He's not about the country. He's not about the people he supposedly represents. He's about making money and getting attention. I don't think he's mentally stable either. We could probably talk about him for hours!"

Curtis's new Sinatra project is close to his heart. He is a huge fan of Sinatra at the Sands, which inspired his album with the Danish Radio Big Band.

"I flew over to rehearse with them for a day, drank a couple of Danish beers and I sang a bunch of great material that I have known since I was a kid but hadn't sung as it never occurred to me to sing Sinatra. I've always kind of done my own thing. I had a ball, though. It was a riot.

"A few weeks later someone sent me an email with a link to the recordings for Danish radio, as it had gone out as a broadcast.

"And to be honest, I didn't even listen to it. It took me a couple of weeks to rediscover it. I threw it on when doing some work and I was really surprised by how fresh it sounded and how cool it sounded to hear me singing these songs and arrangements that Sinatra made so famous."

Curtis has led a remarkable life – coming face-to-face with rock excess and meeting his heroes along the way.

"It was wonderful at the time – but you can't spend your life like that. It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times and I got to perform in front of huge numbers of people and meet a lot of my heroes like Eric Clapton, Elton John and Prince. But I wouldn't want to be stuck in the back of a tour bus now – these days I like to keep it low key, it's better to connect to people in each of the place I travel to.

"Different things are important to me now I guess. I've seen plenty of people in my industry lose sight of what's real and what's not. I'd like to think that I have never been like that, I've always tried to keep a grip on what's important."

Andy Richardson

And we wonder why – Curtis Stigers is taking on Sinatra's hits

It's very easy to lose track of reality. They were great times . . .

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Young Vic's The Jumper Factory

Emphasis on youth at Rep's theatre festival

More than 200 young people from across Europe will unite in Birmingham this summer for a celebration of youth theatre.

Over five days from July 30 to August 3, a total of 14 youth theatre companies will perform as part of For / With / By: Festival of European Youth Theatre at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

The aim of the festival is to raise awareness of youth theatre work, both in the UK and Europe, and also to celebrate incredible theatre made by young people aged 14 to 25.

The programme includes a broad range of plays from the classic, Antigone, to the topical Windrush-inspired, The Place For Me, with companies from across the UK and also Ireland, Poland and Spain.

Steve Ball, associate director for learning and participation at Birmingham Rep, said: "For / With / By is a celebration of the thousands of young people who take part in youth theatre groups every week across the UK and Europe. Here at The Rep we believe theatre and the chance to participate in high-quality drama activities should be open to every young person.

"Performing, learning and participating in theatre can have life-changing experiences and I think that during the festival you'll not only see some incredible theatre making, you'll also see young people having a real drive and passion for something they have chosen to be part of."

For further information about the shows see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

Be moonstruck by the Lunar line-up

THE Lunar Festival near Birmingham offers an intimate alternative to the summer's mega music fests.

The capacity is 5,000 for the Lunar Festival, named after a group of Birmingham-based 18th century industrialists, philosophers and intellectuals, which is being held at a rural site near the Warwickshire village of Tanworth-In-Arden, after taking a year off in 2017.

Committed to staying small whilst thinking big, the 2018 edition of Lunar Festival is held over the weekend of July 27 to 29. The major music acts will be in action from Friday to Sunday, following 'early settlers' day on Thursday.

Top of the bill on Friday is Amadou & Mariam, a Grammy-nomiated duo from Mali, and the line up also includes the Go! Team, folk group The Unthanks with the songs of Molly Drake, a DJ set from Baement Jaxx and funky Welsh band Boy Azooga, plus others.

Goldfrapp, fronted by Alison Goldfrapp, pictured, headline on Saturday, plus electronic outfit Crazy P, Hookworms and 'Madchester' favourites A Guy Called Gerald, and more. Another eclectic line-up on Sunday is topped by new wave veterans The Stranglers, with support from Malian band Songhoy Blues, singer-songwriter Jane Weaver, and DJ Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast.

"Lunar is 100 per cent dedicated to celebrating the wonderful community of music and art lovers that have supported the festival to date, and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to this year's edition," said the festival's John Fell.

There is a range of prices with camping and without, and special deals for students and NHS workers. For more information see www.lunarfestival.co.uk website.

Fenn-tastic event for Twin Peaks fans

Sherilyn Fenn, Audrey Horne in cult 1990s TV series Twin Peaks and its sequel Twin Peaks: The Return, is the first special guest announced for MCM Birmingham Comic Con at the NEC on November 24 and 25. While Fenn has an array of TV and film credits to her name, from Gilmore Girls to the controversial Boxing Helena, the Detroit-born actor is best known as Audrey in David Lynch and Mark Frost's surreal detective drama Twin Peaks. See www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham/2018

Hip-hop and pop at Solihull Summer Fest

This year's Solihull Summer Fest is set to be the best yet with a line-up that includes pop legendss Busted, Sister Sledge, Blue and 10cc – plus latest X-factor winners, Rak-Su. Now in its third year, thousands at Tudor Grange Park over the August Bank Holiday weekend.The Saturday (August 25) line-up includes disco sensations Sister Sledge, 70s favourites 10cc and 'All Rise' boy band Blue. Also on the bill are X Factor hip-hop sensations Rak-Su, singer and Britain's Got Talent judge Alesha Dixon and Roland Gift from the Fine Young Cannibals. Sunday (August 26) includes the only confirmed gig of 2018 for Busted, plus 'America' hitmakers Razorlight, the Lightning Seeds, The Beat featuring Ranking Roger and The Dualers. Plus special guest rappers the Sugar Hill Gang. Visit www.solihullsummerfest.co.uk

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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 7

CHOICE

Jo Whiley

RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018 (BBC2, 9.30pm)

On the final day at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, Carol Klein will be revealing what to plant this weekend for instant results, Arit Anderson has some Hampton-inspired ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Plus, Toby Buckland meets the winner of Florist of the Year and Nick Bailey looks in detail at a cut-flower favourite, the lily. Introduced by Joe Swift and Jo Whiley.

BBC1

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of day six at the All England Club. **2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Gary Lineker presents coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Wimbledon 2018. Sue Barker presents further live coverage of day six.

6.10 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy.

9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)

9.45 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.05 Film: Avengers: Age of Ultron. (2015) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.10** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.40** The Dengineers. (R) **8.10** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.40** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.10** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **10.30** Athletics: Diamond League Lausanne Highlights. **11.30** Wimbledon 2018.

8.30 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at SW19, where the line-up for the last 16 was set to be decided. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic progressing to the fourth round with respective straight-set victories over Mischa Zverev and Ernests Gulbis, while Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was dumped out of the tournament on Court Two against American Sam Querrey.

9.30 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2018. Carol Klein reveals what to plant for instant results, Arit Anderson has ideas for outside spaces, and Adam Frost explores how to create privacy in a garden. Last in the series.

10.00 Joanna & Jennifer: Absolutely Champers. In Absolutely Fabulous, Patsy and Edina were rarely seen without a glass of champagne in their hands. And it turns out their real-life counterparts, comedy collaborators and great friends Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders, also like nothing more than getting together to share a glass of something chilled and bubbly. Now the pair head across the channel to explore the Champagne region of France and find out how the tipple is made. Along the way, they also quiz each other about their lives, revealing previously unheard stories and anecdotes. (R)

11.00 Absolutely Fabulous. A new boyfriend boasting a selection of lost Beatles recordings makes Eddie think she has hit the big time. (R)

11.30 Film: Behind the Candelabra. (2013)

1.20 Film: Populaire. (2012) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

In the event of live football not being shown, the following schedule is subject to change.

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. **9.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** ITV News. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's races from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Coverage of the third quarter-final (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Spain or Russia v Croatia or Denmark (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the fourth quarter-final, which takes place at Fisht Stadium in Sochi, as the semi-final line-up is completed. The teams still left in the competition at this stage know they have a very strong chance of lifting the famous trophy, and the pressure will be on both countries to perform well here. If the expected results had occurred in the group stages and during last week's last-16 encounters, this match may well have been a mouthwatering clash between Spain and Argentina, but Jorge Sampaoli's side just scraped through in second place from their group, and met France in the second round a week ago. Fernando Hierro – who travelled to four World Cups as a defender for Spain – took over as manager just days before the start of the tournament following Julen Lopetegui's sacking, and guided his side to a memorable 3-3 draw with Portugal, a 1-0 victory over Iran and a 2-2 draw with Morocco in their group games.

9.15 Bear's Mission with Rob Brydon. Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the comedian some alternative survival skills. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: The Bourne Identity. (2002) Thriller, starring Matt Damon.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Swansea Half Marathon. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The 10th round of the season continues. **12.25** F1 Meets Toto Wolff. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the qualifying session at Silverstone (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. (R)

8.00 Film: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (2015) With the original Best Exotic Marigold Hotel a roaring success, owner Sonny decides the time is right to expand his business empire. But to do so, he and the rest of the residents must pull out all the stops to impress a potential investor's inspector – a task that proves to be easier said than done. Comedy drama sequel, with Dev Patel, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and Richard Gere.

10.25 Film: The World's End. (2013) Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl in their home town, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.

12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a dog-friendly hotel in urgent need of help. (R) **1.20** The Big Narstie Show. The grime MC presents an alternative entertainment show. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. A special flashback episode focusing on James, looking back at moments in his life including his 16th birthday and landing his first role at law firm, Forbes Carney. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three rival north London sellers try to clinch a sale from buyer Kelly. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **1.45** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **2.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.45** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.45** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.45** 5 News Weekend. **5.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.45 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The enforcement agents chase down a builder owing nearly £3,500 to a customer and head to south London to recover almost £10,000 from a debtor who acted as guarantor for a friend. (R)

7.40 Britain's Greatest Magician: Paul Daniels. Documentary revisiting the highlights of Paul Daniels' decades-long career as a TV magician, which saw him bring magic to the masses via grand set-piece performances such as making an elephant vanish, and shocking stunts, including his infamous iron maiden trick. The programme also charts the beginnings of Paul's interest in illusions, learning rudimentary tricks from a book during his childhood in Middlesbrough. Includes interviews with Paul's Magic Circle contemporary Stephen Mulhern, illusionists David Copperfield and Penn and Teller, and the magician's own widow and former on-stage companion Debbie McGee. (R)

9.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. TV illusionists have been sawing ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn & Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium. (R)

11.50 Cricket on 5.

12.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Rik Mayall: Lord of Misrule **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.00** Smashing Hits! The 80's Pop Map of Britain & Ireland **2.00** Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.05** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **12.35** Catchphrase **1.20 Film:** Twister (1996) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25 Film:** Twister (1996) **3.35 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** CelebAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

4.55 Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.15 Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** World Series of Darts Live: Las Vegas. Coverage of day two of the US Darts Masters from the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. **12.00 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Nacho Libre (2006) **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.55 Film: Postman Pat: The Movie (2014) **1.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** Young Sheldon **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Ted (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Rude Tube **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.45** Vice Versa (1988) **4.40** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **9.00** True Lies (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.45** The Anomaly (2014) **1.40** Mercury Rising (1998) **3.55** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 8

CHOICE

Rafael Nadal

Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal
(BBC2, 6.20pm)
A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes. The contest was also halted twice for rain delays, meaning the event stretched for over seven hours before eventually reaching its conclusion not long before nightfall.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Barry Davies: The Man, The Voice, The Legend. (R) **2.00** Just Call Me Martina. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. **3.30** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Attenborough and the Giant Elephant. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 **BBC News.**

6.50 **Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Sean Fletcher explore the ground of Hampton Court Palace, home to the last remaining working shire horses in London, which provide a natural alternative to modern machinery. Plus, a look at the finished design for the Countryfile Wildlife Garden to appear at the Hampton Court Flower Show, and Anita Rani and Adam Henson meet two more candidates for the Young Presenter contest.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Cardiff Castle, where items brought in to be valued include a simple pottery jug given as a love token, an early Hockney print found in a junk shop, and a draft score for Elgar's Enigma Variations signed by the composer.

9.00 **Poldark.** Grain prices rise, leaving the poor struggling to support their families. Ross makes a desperate gamble to help them, which draws the attention of the prime minister. However, Falmouth persuades him to compromise his principles to achieve his goals. Demelza continues her plot to bring Drake and Rosina together, but he is far more interested in a future with Morwenna. Caroline continues to repress her grief, and Arthur is driven into a murderous rage when he learns the truth about Rowella's affair.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Regional Programme.**

10.30 **Celebrities on the NHS Frontline.** To mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, four well-known faces get first-hand experience at King's College Hospital, London. (R)

11.30 **Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia: Gay and Under Attack.** (R)

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.05** Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** Rick Stein's German Bite. (R) **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.00** Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places: Natural World. (R) **4.00** Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. (R)

6.20 **Strokes of Genius: Federer v Nadal.** A look back at the 2008 Wimbledon men's singles final, which saw Rafael Nadal triumph over Roger Federer in an epic five-set encounter that lasted for four hours and 48 minutes.

8.00 **Russia with Simon Reeve.** The traveller's second leg of his journey across Russia takes him from south-east Siberia to the far south west and the majestic Caucasus Mountains. Along the way he stops off at the oldest lake on earth, witnesses a commemoration of the Second World War in the city of Irkutsk and visits a cafe where patriotic staff and punters perform a daily rendition of the national anthem. He also finds out how the collapse of communism has seen millions of disenchanted Russians join new sects and religions, with one community worshipping a man claiming to be the reincarnation of Christ. (R)

9.00 **The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan.** The comedian visits Ethiopia, experiencing local traditional medicine and jazz music, as well as learning more about the country's oppressive political regime.

10.00 **Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** Violence erupts in Charlottesville and President Trump fails to denounce white supremacists, before further stirring division by blaming the media for the nation's problems.

10.55 **Film: The Box.** (2009) A couple receive a box that will make them rich at the press of a button – but if they do so, someone will die. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz and James Marsden.

12.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjago: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** **Film:** Problem Child. (1990) **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.55** ITV News; Weather. **2.00** Catchphrase. (R) **2.45** Tenable. (R) **3.45** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.45** **Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

6.30 **ITV News**; Weather.

6.45 **Regional Programme;** Weather.

7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as one-time Coronation Street actor Jimi Mistry (Khalid Nazir), former Emmerdale star Gemma Atkinson (Carly Hope), Loose Women's Nadia Sawalha and veteran actor James Cosmo pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser, in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds for the charity of their choice. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

8.00 **Vera.** The detective is drawn into Newcastle's underworld to discover the identity of a murder victim found dead in the river, with no clue as to who he is apart from a distinctive drugs wrapper. She discovers the dead man had ties to some very dangerous people, many of whom may have wanted him dead, while a witness's testimony links the case to a remote farm where a murder took place 13 years previously. The connection brings Kenny's past back to haunt him, as he was responsible for seeing the perpetrator convicted. (R)

10.00 **ITV News**; Weather.

10.20 **Tommy Cooper Forever.** (R)

11.20 **The Big Fish Off.** Former athletics stars Linford Christie and Katharine Merry join team captains Ali Hamidi and Dean Macey. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.30** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the 10th round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 10th round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.30** Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Reaction. **5.35** Bang on Budget.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **The Great British Germ Hunt.** Kate Quilton and a team explore the invisible world of bacteria, as they conduct a series of unique experiments to find out why these germs are crucial for our health. The team head to a music festival to see if a weekend of partying improves the bacterial diversity of a group of volunteers, and two ordinary British homes are put under the microscope to reveal the germs we live with.

8.00 **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the final of the patisserie competition, with the last three remaining teams of bakers pulling out all the stops to impress judges Benoit Blin and Cherish Finden and be crowned as the first champion of the professional series. The bakers face a marathon nine-hour challenge, during which they must create a lavish banquet display large enough to serve 80 people. Their creation has to combine four different types of dessert and a towering showpiece combining chocolate and sugar work. Last in the series.

9.00 **The Handmaid's Tale.** A sick baby tests Offred and Serena Joy. Meanwhile, Janine finally faces Naomi. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy.

10.10 **World's Tiniest Masterpieces.** Profile of sculptor Willard Wigan, whose miniscule work can only be glimpsed through a microscope, as he creates a sculpture small enough to fit inside a human cell.

11.05 **Film: The Eagle.** (2011) Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

1.20 The Last Leg. (R) **2.15** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.15** Gillette World Sport. **3.40** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **6.55** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **1.55** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **2.55** **Film:** Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. **5.00** **Film:** Maid in Manhattan. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes.

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Action from the final T20 of the three-match series, which took place at The Brightside Ground in Bristol. Prior to the commencement of this series, England had an excellent record against India in this format of the game when playing on home soil, winning all three of the matches to have taken place.

8.00 **Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring face plants and badly behaved fish.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Film: We're the Millers.** (2013) A drug dealer is hired to pick up a shipment of marijuana in Mexico and bring it back over the border. To make himself look less suspicious, he recruits a stripper and two teenagers to pose as a perfect all-American family on holiday, only to end up getting on the wrong side of a drug cartel. Comedy, with Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston and Emma Roberts.

11.10 **Film: Hot Tub Time Machine 2.** (2015) A group of friends travels into the future to solve a mystery after one of them gets shot by a mysterious stranger. Comedy, starring Rob Corddry and Craig Robinson.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The A-Team. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Vienna Summer Night Concert 2018 **8.15** Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Hunting the Nazi Gold Train **11.30** The Art of Scandinavia **12.30** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **1.30** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **2.30** Horizon **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.50 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Talent **12.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35** **Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** **Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.25** **Film:** The Mummy (1999) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** **Film:** The Mummy (1999) **6.45** **Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** **Film:** Mamma Mia! Sing-along (2008) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** CelebAbility **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
7.00 Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.05** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.15** Road to Avonlea **4.55** Murder, She Wrote **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage two of the most prestigious race on the calendar. **5.00** Snooker v Darts **5.10** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Pawn Stars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** **Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** **Film:** Rush Hour 2 (2001) **9.55** **Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00** **Film:** The Glimmer Man (1996) **11.50** Minder **2.05** The Motorbike Show **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **6.30** **Film:** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.05** Gogglebox Australia **2.55** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Stuart Little (1999) **1.00** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.30** The Three Stooges (2012) **4.20** The Train (1964) **7.00** Taxi (2004) **9.00** Faster (2010) **10.55** The Purge (2013) **12.35** Piranha 3DD (2012) **2.10** Phase IV (1973) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Killer Date, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An attractive woman agrees to go on the date arranged online by her sister. The app she is supplied with uses GPS technology and when she starts to receive disturbing messages via the medium, every man in her life becomes a suspect. Thriller, starring Anna Hutchinson. (2016)

TUESDAY
Rocky V, ITV, 10.50pm
The heavyweight champion is forced into retirement due to brain damage inflicted in the ring, and finds his fortune has been lost on the stock market by his accountant. Returning to his working-class roots, he trains an up-and-coming fighter, only to see his protege turn against him. Drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and real-life boxer Tommy Morrison. (1990)

WEDNESDAY
Sex, Lies And Deception, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. Samantha and Paul's marriage is put under strain when a car accident involving their daughter Jane sees her admitted to hospital. Drama, starring Jessalyn Gilsig. (2018)

The Last Boy Scout, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Clash of the Titans, Channel 5, 9pm
The son of the Greek god Zeus is raised by humans and grows up to reject his immortal heritage in anger at the gods' cruel treatment of humans. He sets out on a quest to find a means to kill the evil lord of the underworld in revenge for his father's death, facing all manner of strange creatures. Mythological adventure, with Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes and Gemma Arterton. (2010)

FRIDAY
The Last Boy Scout, ITV, 10.45pm
A private eye half-heartedly takes a job as bodyguard to a nightclub dancer. A shocking attack, however, forces him to take his duties more seriously, and before long he uncovers evidence of murder and corruption - all linked to the world of American football. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Chelsea Field and Halle Berry. (1991)

PICK OF THE WEEK

New mystery series hopes to be a novel success

Can an eight-part TV version of Joan Lindsay's classic novel outshine the much-admired film version?

Those who have seen director Peter Weir's haunting movie would probably answer in the negative, but in recent years, the small screen has come to rival its bigger cousin for quality, so we may be onto a winner.

In recent times, the likes of Big Little Lies, The Handmaid's Tale, Top of the Lake and Sky's latest series, Sharp Objects, have gone some way to boost the number of leading roles for women, and Picnic at Hanging Rock certainly lends a hand too – it's dominated by strong females.

When the book was published back in 1967, it was hugely acclaimed and quickly became known as one of the greatest entries in Australian literature, but its origins have puzzled readers ever since.

Some are utterly convinced it's based on a true story, while Lindsay herself did little to persuade people one way or the other. However, her housekeeper later claimed her employer had dreamt the basic idea.

A 2017 article from the Australian magazine The Age stated, "The dream had centred on a summer picnic at a place called Hanging Rock, which Joan knew well from her childhood holidays.

"Joan told Rae (her housekeeper) that the dream had felt so real that when she awoke at 7.30am, she could still feel the hot summer breeze blowing through the gum trees and she could still hear the peals of laughter and conversation of the people she'd imagined, and their gaiety and lightness of spirit."

All this mystery merely adds to the tale's appeal.

The film starred Rachel Roberts, while Vivean Gray – instantly recognisable to Neighbours fans for her subsequent role as battleaxe Mrs Mangel – had a small role, as did Oscar-nominated actress Jacki Weaver.

This time around it's Game of Thrones and The Hunger Games star Natalie Dormer who takes the lead role of widowed headmistress Hester Appleyard, who arrives in Australia as the tale begins.

"I'm excited that the BBC Two is bringing this magical reimagining of an Australian classic to the UK audience," says Dormer. "It's a collaboration of which I'm very proud to be a part."

Sue Deeks, the BBC's head of programme acquisition, adds: "This stylistically bold and atmospheric take on Picnic At Hanging Rock - led by one of Britain's most exciting actors, Natalie Dormer - will be irresistible both to fans of the classic novel and to those coming to this mysterious story for the first time."

Ms Appleyard's reasons for moving to the other side of the world are shrouded in mystery, but in just six years, she manages to turn her self-named college into a leading educational establishment attended by bright girls from well-to-do families.

It's situated in an isolated mansion in the bush, close to the local beauty spot of Hanging Rock.

Picnic at Hanging Rock, Wednesday, BBC2, 9.05pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 9pm
Olivia Colman finds some surprises in her ancestral history, and her belief that most of those in her family tree emanate from Norfolk turns out to be far from the truth. Olivia is astonished to discover that she needs to travel to India to find out more about her great-great-great grandmother Harriot, who was an orphan in 1811 on a ship bound for England from Calcutta. Harriot's father was an an Englishman, but the identity of her mother, who gave birth to her in a remote Indian village, is a mystery Olivia delights in solving.

TUESDAY
Horizon: How to Build a Time Machine
BBC2, 9pm
Time travel is not forbidden by the laws of nature - but to build a time machine, experts need to understand more about those laws and how to subvert them. Cameras follow scientists, including Professors Ron Mallet and Tamara Davies, who are working on the cutting edge of discovery - men and women who may discover how to build wormholes, manipulate entangled photons or build fully functioning time crystals. In short, enable an engineer of the future to build a machine that allows people to travel back and forward in time.

999: What's Your Emergency?
Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary following the emergency services in Wiltshire, continuing with crimes relating to the rising use of cannabis. PC Joe Tompkinson is cut up at a roundabout and when he stops the car responsible, all he can smell is the drug. PC Adam Burson visits a family whose members have had a brick thrown through their front window - a dealer's retaliation - and officers are called by a mother after she is assaulted by her son, who is suspected to be suffering from cannabis psychosis.

WEDNESDAY
Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
Channel 5, 9pm
This time, the presenter visits Mount Stewart on the shores of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland, which was home to the Stewart family for more than 250 years. They were given the title of Marquess of Londonderry and it was the Marchioness, Lady Edith, who was largely responsible for transforming the house. Alan learns about Edith's eclectic taste as he looks around her private bedroom suite, and meets her granddaughter, Lady Rose. Elsewhere, Nina travels to the Peroni Archive in Belfast to discover how Lady Edith was active in the Suffragist movement.

Who Do You Think You Are?, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Trump & Britain: Love or Loathing? Tonight
ITV, 7.30pm
Donald Trump is about to make his first official visit to the UK as President, and it's been predicted he'll be greeted by thousands of protestors – there's even been reports that a specially designed orange inflatable will be flown over London to mark the occasion. But will his reception really be as hostile as some sections of the media are predicting? Tonight looks at what we can expect from the US leader's visit, and hears from a varied group of public figures, including Lord Sugar, Nigel Farage, Germaine Greer and Alex Salmond, to find out what they think about the trip. Martin Geissler will also ask what the visit says about the state of the so-called ëspecial relationship' and what it will mean for Britain's future dealings with the controversial President.

FRIDAY
First Night of the Proms
BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. At London's Royal Albert Hall, the new season launches with a feast for the eyes and ears in the world premiere of Five Telegrams, with music by Anna Meredith and stunning digital projections by 59 Productions marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The all-British programme also features Vaughan Williams' pre-war choral masterpiece Toward the Unknown Region, along with Holst's evergreen Proms favourite The Planets - the first piece Mars, Bringer of War, famously anticipates the onset of mechanistic warfare. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, under conductor Sakari Oramo, is joined by the combined forces of the BBC Symphony Chorus, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the BBC Proms Youth Ensemble. Presented by Katie Derham.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

■	17	■	4	14	9	20	16	18	9	■	7	■
6	24	19	9	■	■	9	■	■	25	7	26	25
■	19	■	22	■	■	17	■	■	21	■	25	■
3	25	13	25	4	16	9	26	3	■	■	10	■
23	■	9	■	■	■	19	■	4	26	10	10	3
20 R	16 I	5	■	19	■	■	■	20	■	15	■	4
26	■	3	14	9	2	23	16	24	4	24	■	14
8	■	9	■	1	■	■	■	2	■	3	21	16
13	24	8	16	16	■	3	■	■	■	14	■	3
■	8	■	■	4	25	19	25	4	15	11	3	22
■	12	■	5	■	■	24	■	■	25	■	9	■
8	9	6	25	■	■	20	■	■	5	20	25	2
■	11	■	17	15	25	8	21	15	11	■	20	■

1		14	
2		15	
3		16	I
4		17	
5		18	
6		19	
7		20	R
8		21	
9		22	
10		23	
11		24	
12		25	
13		26	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	R	P	K	S	N	A	O	I	V	D	T	C
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
J	B	H	M	F	G	Z	X	Q	W	U	L	E

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

■	1	2		3		4		5		6		■
7	■		■		■		■		■		■	8
9			■	10								
	■	■	■		■		■		■		■	
11		12			■	13						
	■		■	■	■		■		■		■	
14				15		■	16					
	■		■		■	17	■	■	■		■	
18							■	19				
	■		■		■		■		■	■	■	
20									■	21		
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
■	22											■

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Feeling of optimism engendered by fine liquor? (4,7)
9 & 2Dn. Dine away from home and consume all the food? (3,3)
10. Tall men to make a distribution (9)
11. Put the squeeze on newspapers (5)
13. Having no faith in merit of icy clan (7)
14. Irritate by doing some embroidery? (6)
16. A tense situation in a parliament (6)
18. No let-up for rich in revolution (7)
19. Turner of metal at heavy engineering plant (5)
20. Eastern country where 100 produce eggs for making pottery (5,4)
21. Let the cat out in 22, for example (3)
22. Ignore Della for top part (7,4)

Down

2. See 9 Across
3. Has pull when the scores are level (5)
4. Article in position in royal residence (6)
5. Reunite the train (7)
6. Cutting of furrow by worker (9)
7. Maintain contact without letting the ball come into play (4,2,5)
8. Attending the whole programme in any case (2,3,6)
12. Judicially kill about four in managerial capacity (9)
15. Pull slippery customer up on sheltered side (7)
17. Lets on it's not honestly gained (6)
19. Stratum suitable for egg producer (5)
21. Break the law with this instrument (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Homeliness (11)
9. Also (3)
10. Unfeeling (9)
11. Become void (5)
13. Chiefs (7)
14. Stew (6)
16. Beast (6)
18. Ancestry (7)
19. Less (5)
20. Cheat (9)
21. Everybody (3)
22. Solemnisation (11)

Down

2. Strange (3)
3. The best (5)
4. Struggle (6)
5. Include (7)
6. Dealer (9)
7. Unreliability (11)
8. Stupidly (11)
12. Mournful (9)
15. Fetter (7)
17. Improved (6)
19. Deserve (5)
21. Fuss (3)

Sudoku

		3				9		
	4			1			5	
	2	1		5	7	4		
4				3				8
		5	6		8		4	
3			2	4				9
		4	8	6		2	1	
	5			9				4
		8				7	9	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	2	9	3	8	6	5	4
5	9	4	2	6	7	3	1	8
8	3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9
7	4	1	5	9	2	8	6	3
3	6	9	4	8	1	2	7	5
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	4	1
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
9	5	7	8	1	6	4	3	2
4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Beau; 3 Compacts; 9 Salamis; 10 Arena; 11 Battle of wits; 13 Lately; 15 Etches; 17 Petty officer; 20 Litre; 21 Perturb; 22 Pleasure; 23 Stud. Down: 1 Baseball; 2 Allot; 4 On show; 5 Play with fire; 6 Cheetah; 7 Seat; 8 Small letters; 12 Ascribed; 14 Theatre; 16 Copper; 18 Court; 19 Slip.
QUICK - Across: 1 Itch; 3 Scribble; 9 Suppose; 10 Tulle; 11 Cheese-paring; 13 Recoil; 15 Cinema; 17 Unsuccessful; 20 Onion; 21 Emotion; 22 Pressing; 23 Once. Down: 1 Insecure; 2 Copse; 4 Creepy; 5 Intermission; 6 Balance; 7 Eden; 8 Constituents; 12 Parlance; 14 Confide; 16 Screen; 18 Feign; 19 Pomp.

Quiz

1. What is the highest mountain on the continent of Europe?
2. With which genre is author Michael Moorcock associated?
3. Which order of chivalry did Princess Anne receive in 1994?
4. Which alcoholic drink is used in making lobster Newburg?
5. Which element has the Latin name plumbum?
6. Who became a Dame and received a Tony award within 48 hours in 1994?
7. What was the first name of baby care writer Dr Spock?
8. Which French tennis player banned her father from attending Wimbledon?
9. In which ocean are the Maldives?
10. Which organisation's agents were nicknamed G-Men?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Japan; 2 Bobby Charlton; 3 Insects; 4 Santa Fe; 5 Hockey; 6 Harvard University; 7 Italy; 8 A pixel; 9 Prunus; 10 Hundred Years' War.

Niner: PROCLAIMS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

768895	gives a dance,
163163	gives a second dance,
423395	gives a poem.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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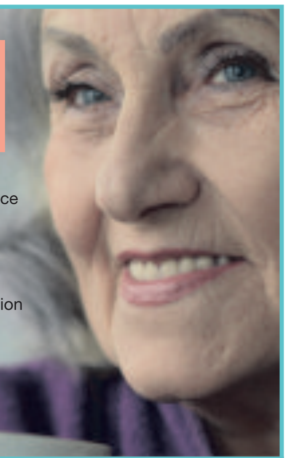

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Spacious family home in popular residential area

A unique and very well-presented detached split-level bungalow in a popular residential location in Littleworth Road, Hednesford, comes with a lower annexe, and is for sale through Chase Independent at £289,950.

The accommodation briefly consists of a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a re-fitted kitchen, a conservatory, a dining room/potential bedroom, two double bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom.

The lower annexe briefly comprises a sitting room/potential bedroom, a shower room and a bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe. There are also delightful gardens, a detached garage and ample off-road parking.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs leading down to the lower annexe, and doors leading off to the lounge, dining room and inner hall.

The spacious family room has a feature fireplace with a marble effect inset and hearth housing a gas living flame fire, and a window to the front.

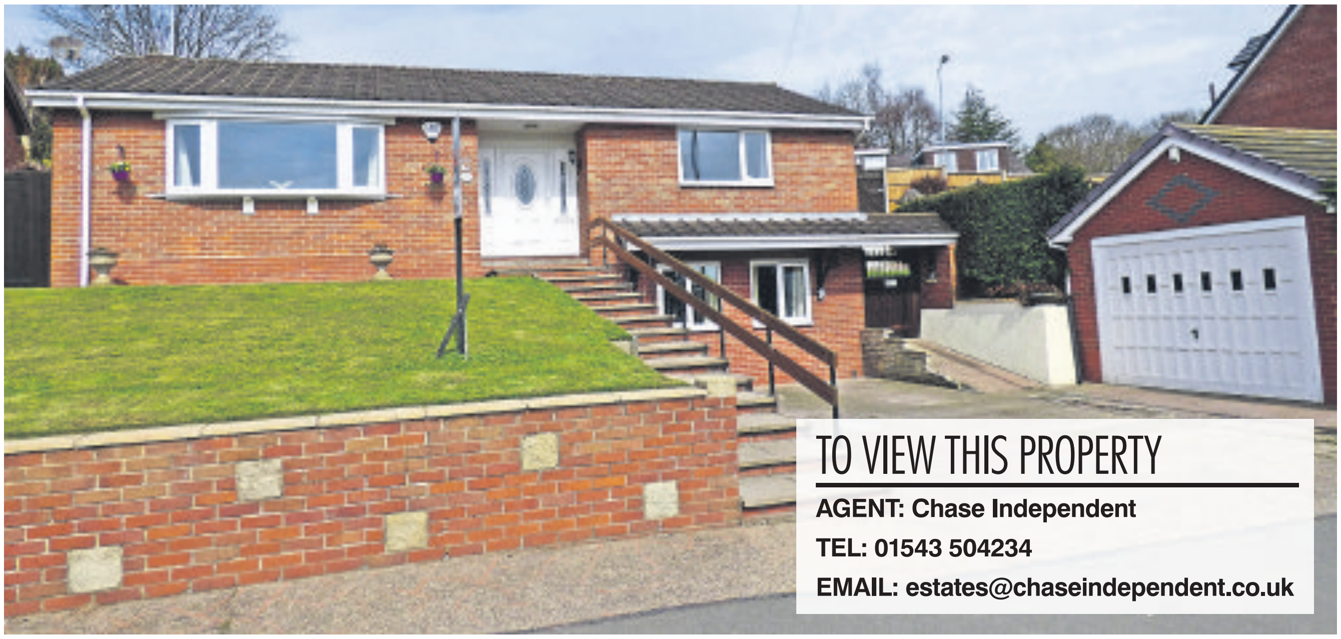
The re-fitted kitchen has a range of base and wall-mounted units with preparation work surfaces over, incorporating a ceramic one and a half bowl sink and drainer unit, space for a cooker, an extractor fan over, an integral fridge, plumbing for a washing machine, laminate flooring, a window to the rear elevation, a door to the conservatory and double doors to dining room.

The dining room/potential bedroom four has a window to the rear. The conservatory has laminate flooring. An inner hall leads to bedroom one and two and the bathroom.

Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes, as does bedroom two.

The re-fitted bathroom has a suite of a bath, pedestal wash hand basin, low level WC, single shower cubicle with mixer shower, extractor fan, full tiling to walls and laminate flooring.

HEDNESFORD £289,950



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- Two double bedrooms
- Dining room/potential bedroom
- Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom

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Offers in Excess of £400,000

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CANNOCK

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Deceptively spacious five/six bedroom detached house / Spacious five/six bedroom detached house / First floor annexe offering a further bedroom, lounge and kitchenette / Large rear garden /

Offers in Excess of £350,000

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WIMBLEBURY

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Stafford Lane
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£270,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Three bedroom detached family home / Sought after location / Off road parking for 2/3 / Victorian pitched roof conservatory / Spacious lounge & separate dining room

£250,000

Hill Street
NORTON CANES

Immaculate three bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow / Set over floors / Situated in quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan kitchen diner / Stunning orangery to rear / Substantial first floor converted dormer

Offers in Excess of £240,000

Carlton Close
HEATH HAYES

Three bedroom detached family home / Large corner plot within a sought after location / Open plan kitchen-diner finished to a high specification / Delightful south facing private rear garden

Offers in the Region Of £230,000

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GREAT WYRLEY

Deceptively spacious two bedroom detached bungalow / Immaculately presented throughout with tasteful decoration / Modern fitted open plan kitchen-diner / Driveway with parking for up

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BRERETON

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Well presented three bedroom detached house / Occupies corner plot / Good sized lounge & open plan kitchen / Two car driveway / Private rear garden

£190,000

View Street
HEDNESFORD

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Pye Green Road
CANNOCK

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Built in popular 1930's style / Set on good sized plot & recently refurbished throughout / Superb spacious open plan dining kitchen

£180,000

Wolverhampton Road
CANNOCK

Deceptively spacious two/three bedroom dormer style bungalow / ●●●NO ONWARD CHAIN●●● / Delightful rear conservatory / Low maintenance rear garden / Garage and driveway

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Chapel Street
NORTON CANES

Three bedroom dormer style bungalow / Sought after village of Norton Canes / Spacious open plan lounge diner / Driveway with parking for 2/3 vehicles / Delightful well maintained private rear

£170,000

Leafdown Close
HEDNESFORD

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£160,000

Oakleigh Drive
BRERETON

Well presented two bedroom mid-terraced house / Set within quiet cul-de-sac location / Far reaching views of the countryside / Superb contemporary split level layout / Good sized tiered private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Evergreen Heights
HEDNESFORD

Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Freshly painted throughout & benefits from newly modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Tarmac driveway with parking for two vehicles

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Heath Gap Road
CANNOCK

Traditional victorian three bedroom semi detached house / Modern fitted kitchen & ground floor bathroom / Spacious living accommodation / Large private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Bryans Way
WIMBLEBURY

Two bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Rural views to rear / Spacious lounge and kitchen-diner / Private rear garden / Driveway for 2 cars

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Springfield Rise
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Barn conversion has countryside aspect

SHARESHILL
£325,000

This stunning semi-detached barn conversion in Wolverhampton Road, Shareshill, called The Granary, is for sale through Paul Carr Estate Agents at £325,000.

This residence would make an ideal family home and an early viewing is highly recommended.

Having central heating and double glazing, the accommodation includes a welcoming entrance hall with a guest WC off and a spacious lounge/dining room with a log burner.

There is a superb kitchen/family room with a range of wall and base units with granite work surfaces over, an integrated dishwasher, log burner and a useful laundry room. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact Paul Carr Estate Agents on 01922 701001.

Enviable plot for dormer bungalow with extensive views

LITTLE HAYWOOD
£450,000 <<<

An individually designed four-bedroomed detached dormer bungalow, The Cliffs, Meadow Lane, Little Haywood, is situated on an enviable plot with far reaching views.

It is for sale through JR Properties at £450,000 with no chain.

The property has flexible accommodation and has to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

It has an entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, orangery, dining room, kitchen, utility, ground floor bedroom/sitting room, separate WC, downstairs bathroom, first floor landing, three first floor bedrooms and a shower room.

Outside, the property is elevated from the road and has wooden gates which lead to the large tarmac driveway.

Contact 01889 577731.

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- Lounge
- Kitchen
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- Bathroom
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- EPC rating D (60)

£179,950

9 STATION ROAD, PELSALL

NEW PRICE

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 8TH JULY 11.00AM – 4.00PM

A PRESTIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FOUR BEDROOMED HOUSE
Conveniently Located For Facilities at Pelsall Village Centre

- Two reception rooms
- Luxury fitted kitchen
- Cloakroom & first floor study
- Four bedrooms
- Family bathroom & 2 ensuites
- Garage & landscaped gardens
- Fully double glazed & gas fired central heating
- Intruder alarm
- Including all carpets & floor coverings
- EPC rating B (83)

£304,995

FISHERS FARM BUNGALOW, UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY

WELL EQUIPPED SPACIOUS EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW
Occupying Ornamental Gardens Located In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Central reception hall
- Lounge/dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Snooker/games room
- Four bedrooms
- Bathroom and 2 ensuites
- Built on double width garage
- Fully double glazed
- (LPG) Gas central heating
- EPC rating D (68)

£595,000

6C HUNTS LANE, SHORT HEATH, WILLENHALL

EXTREMELY WELL PRESENTED AND APPOINTED DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Entrance hall & cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room & family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Landscaped garden & off road parking
- EPC rating C (73)

£230,000 FREEHOLD

12 GOWLAND DRIVE, CANNOCK

EXTENDED AND IMPROVED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE OFFERING WELL APPOINTED ACCOMMODATION

- Reception hall
- Lounge & family room
- Dining kitchen & utility room
- Shower room
- Four bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating & fully double glazed
- Garage
- Landscaped gardens
- EPC rating E (53)

£365,000

HOG HALL, POTTAL POOL ROAD, PENKRIDGE

NEW PRICE

SUPERB SPACIOUS BARN CONVERSION WITH FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS
Located In Semi Rural Position Yet Conveient for Local Facilities

- Entrance hall
- Lounge/dining room
- Utility room & cloakroom with WC
- Family room
- Three ground floor double bedrooms
- First floor double bedroom
- Family bathroom & wet room
- LPG central heating & fully double glazed
- Extensive off road parking & gardens
- EPC rating E (39)

£499,950

44 HEATH GAP ROAD, CANNOCK

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE

- Reception hall and cloakroom with WC
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Heat recovery system
- Fully double glazed
- Gardens
- EPC rating tbc

£200,000

PLOT 1, 200 HEDNESFORD ROAD, NORTON CANES

NEW PRICE

ONE OF TWO WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCES
Well Located For Facilities Within This Popular Village

- Reception/study
- Cloakroom with Wc
- Lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Four double bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room and family bathroom
- Integral garage & gardens
- Intruder alarm & 10 year warranty
- Gas fired central heating & fully double glazed
- EPC rating B (84)

£259,950 FREEHOLD

7 CASA MIA COURT, CARDIGAN PLACE, HEDNESFORD

SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM MAISONETTE
Idally suited For Facilities at Hednesford Town Centre

- Entrance hall
- Spacious lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Balcony
- Fully double & Electric heating
- Allocated parking
- Ideal buy to let or first time buy
- EPC rating D (66)

£110,000

15 MOUNT AVENUE, HEDNESFORD

SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS OR INVESTORS
Just a Stones Throw Away From Cannock Chase

- Lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Dining room
- Two double bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Ideal for first time buyer/ Investors
- EPC rating D (56)

£129,950

13 ROWAN CROFT, PRICE STREET, CANNOCK

FIRST FLOOR RETIREMENT APARTMENT BEING WELL MAINTAINED
Being Centrally Located for Cannock Town

- Chain free
- Fitted kitchen
- Electric heating
- Double glazing
- Communal reception/sitting area
- Communal landing/dryer facilities
- Warden call system/security phone system
- Viewing recommended
- EPC rating C (74)

£64,950

PLOT 2, 198 HEDNESFORD ROAD, NORTON CANES

NEW PRICE

ONE OF TWO WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCES
Well Located For Facilities Within This Popular Village

- Reception/study
- Cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Four double bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room and family bathroom
- Integral garage & gardens
- Intruder alarm & 10 year warranty
- Gas fired central heating & fully double glazed
- EPC rating B (83)

£259,950 FREEHOLD

OAKWOOD HOUSE, OAK LANE, CANNOCK

A SUPERBLY APPOINTED DETACHED PROPERTY OCCUPYING APPROXIMATELY 1/4 ACRE
Having Been Extensively Refurbished Over The Past Two Years

- Reception hall
- Drawing room & L shaped lounge
- Luxury kitchen
- Conservatory & Guest cloakroom
- Three bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room & family bathroom
- Extensive gardens & detached garage with utility area
- Range of outbuildings & rural position
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating G (18)

OIRO £550,000 FREEHOLD

13 CAVERSHAM MEWS, CANNOCK

NEW PRICE

EXTREMELY WELL PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Reception hall & cloakroom with WC
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Detached double garage & gardens
- EPC rating C (79)

£207,000 FREEHOLD

6 ROWAN CROFT, PRICE STREET, CANNOCK

NEW PRICE

WELL EQUIPPED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT LOCATED IN PURPOSES BUILT SHELTERED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
Which Is Conveniently Located For Cannock Town Centre

- Entrance hall
- Lounge & kitchen
- Double bedroom
- Refitted shower room
- Warden call system/security phone system
- Communal halls & access areas
- Communal laundry/dryer facilities
- Communal grounds
- Economy 7 electric heating & double glazed
- EPC rating D (66)

£29,950 for 50% share

20 THE HEATH, CANNOCK ROAD, HEATH HAYES

WELL EQUIPPED SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT

- Communal hall, stairs and landing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Shower room
- Fully double glazed & electric heating
- Allocated parking
- Communal grounds
- Convenient for local facilities
- EPC rating C (76)

£85,000

15 CLARION WAY, WEST CHADSMOOR

NEW PRICE

TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Convenient For Local Facilities

- Entrance hall
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Landing
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Corner plot gardens
- EPC rating C (69)

£119,950 FREEHOLD

356 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW
Located In Popular Residential Area of the Town

- Front porch
- Lounge with dining area
- Breakfast kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three bedrooms & loft room
- Bathroom
- Built on garage & garden
- Gas fired central heating
- All windows double glazed
- EPC rating D (64)

£259,950

01543 505454

RICS rightmove.co.uk OnTheMarket.com

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25B Horsefair, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2EJ

JR PROPERTIES

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E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

We're Selling... Are You...?

CALL US FOR **FREE** VALUATION

Oakwood, Etching Hill £500,000 OIEO

NEW

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this executive detached family home in an exceptional location on the rural fringes of Cannock Chase-An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This beautifully presented family homes offers flexible accommodating and enjoys a mature garden plot in an exclusive private drive with its very own copse situated to the side-an ideal area for a children's play area. The property has to be viewed to appreciate..

Windsor Close, Rugeley £240,000

MUST BE VIEWED

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this exceptionally well presented detached family. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and consists of entrance hallway, guest wc, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms (originally four), en suite with dressing room and main bathroom, gardens

Dyke Road, Armitage £168,950

MUST BE VIEWED

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached home, in the sought after village of Armitage. Having Entrance Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Conservatory. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway for parking and Gardens to front and rear.

Birches Valley, Cannock Chase £285,000

MUST BE VIEWED

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this rare opportunity to acquire a three bedroom semi detached house in the heart of Cannock Chase-An area of outstanding natural beauty. The property must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer which briefly comprises hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, utility room, three bedrooms and shower room, front and rear gardens and plentiful parking

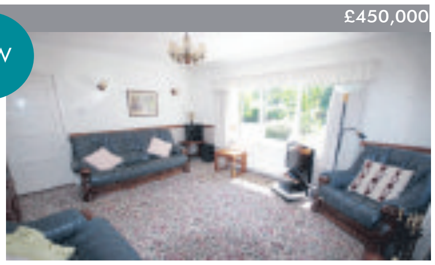
Woodheyes Lawns, Etching £159,950

NO CHAIN

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this semi detached bungalow situated in a popular location and offered with No Upward Chain. Viewing essential to appreciate the size and layout and all reasonable offers will be considered. Accommodation briefly comprises: Hallway, Kitchen, Lounge, Two bedrooms, Shower Room,

The Cliffs, Meadow Lane, L. Haywood £450,000

NEW



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this rare opportunity to acquire an individually designed detached dormer bungalow situated on an envious plot with far reaching views. Offered with No Upward Chain The Cliffs as the property is known locally offers flexible accommodation and has to be viewed to appreciate. The established plot has a gated driveway providing parking for several vehicles and various lawned areas with matures trees and shrubbery offering privacy and seclusion within the lovely

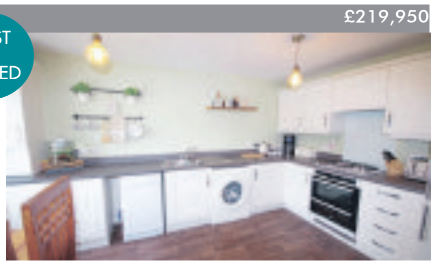
East Butts Road, Etching Hill £425,000

NEW

● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this unique designed and much improved detached family home in a sought after location. This family sized home sits on a good sized garden plot with plentiful parking to front and private garden to rear. Internally the accommodation comprises: Hallway, Lounge, Open plan kitchen with dining room, utility room, guest wc, Master bedroom with en-suite, Three further bedrooms, Main bathroom. Outside has a gated frontage, garage and private rear garden

Langley Way, Hawksyard £219,950

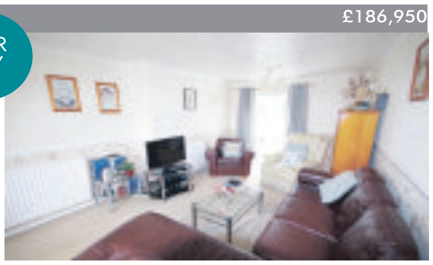
MUST BE VIEWED



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this superbly presented four bedroom semi detached three storey home. The property is positioned on a corner with garage and parking to the side. Internally the master bedroom occupies the top floor with en suite and dressing area, three further bedrooms, master bathroom, lounge, dining kitchen and guest wc, viewing essential

Somerset Avenue, Rugeley £186,950

STAR BUY



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented detached family home situated on a large impressive plot with private gardens and plentiful parking. Briefly comprising hallway, guest wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, study, three bedrooms and bathroom, viewing essential

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JR PROPERTIES

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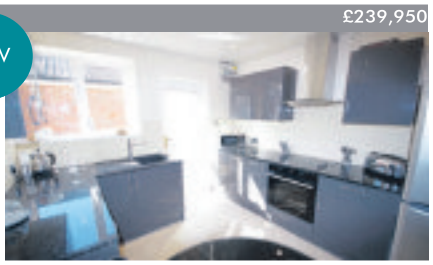
E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley £254,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this four bedroom detached property situated on a corner position on The Birches. Internally the accommodation comprises: Hallway, Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Kitchen, Garage, Master with en suite, Three Further Bedrooms, Main Bathroom, Front and Rear

Brindley Bank Road, Rugeley £239,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this refurbished detached bungalow situated at the end of a popular cul-de-sac. Offered with no upward chain this three bedroom bungalow has been remodeled and refurbished throughout by the current seller and has a refitted luxury bathroom and grey gloss high end kitchen with a lovely private South facing garden, must be viewed!

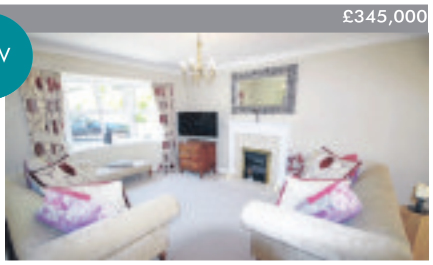
We're Selling... Are You...?

CALL US FOR FREE VALUATION

Sheringham Drive, Etching £275,000

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this extended three double bedroom bungalow situated at the end of a cul-de-sac. The bungalow sits on an elevated plot with far reaching views to the front and internal inspection is highly recommended to appreciate the spacious design and layout, also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN

Chase Side Drive, Rugeley £345,000

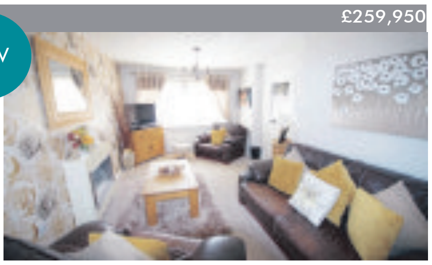


● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this executive detached property situated in an enviable private position with detached double garage and not being overlooked from front and rear. Offered with No Upward Chain this large family home has one of the largest garden plots on the development and has been refurbished and updated throughout by the current vendor.

Anson Mews, Rugeley £84,995

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this one bedroom ground floor apartment offered with No Upward Chain. The apartment has a pleasant courtyard garden to rear backing onto the Trent and Mersey Canal and one allocated parking space. Viewing Essential

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley £259,950

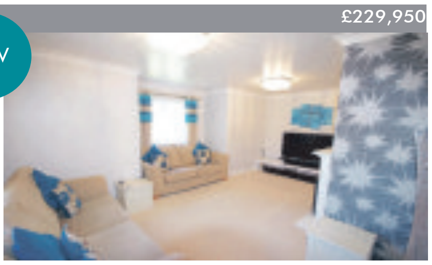


● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented four bedroom detached property situated in a corner position at the end of a private drive. Internally this spacious family home offers flexible accommodation and comprises: Hallway, Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Refitted Kitchen, Four bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom and En Suite, Front and Rear Gardens with plentiful parking

Chadsfield Road, Rugeley £249,950 OIEO

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale arguably one of the finest detached bungalows in Rugeley within walking distance to the town. The bungalow is situated on a large mature garden plot surrounded by similar detached bungalows in a leafy part of the town. The plot has two driveway entrances providing plentiful off road parking and has private formal gardens to three sides

St Johns Drive, Hawksyard £229,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious three bedroom detached family home situated on the ever popular Hawksyard development. The property sits on a corner position at the beginning of the development and overlooks a green area to the front. Internally the current vendors have remodeled the kitchen and dining room into a spacious open plan kitchen diner being completely refitted with high gloss units and integrated appliances. Viewing essential

Salisbury Close, Rugeley £299,950 OIEO

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious four bedroom detached property situated on a corner plot with views towards Cannock Chase to rear. The property benefits from refitted bathrooms, large reception rooms, plentiful parking to front and landscaped rear garden, viewing essential

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The Property Ombudsman rightmove

flint & co

flintandco.com 01543 624400

WIMBLEBURY
JOHN STREET

- An extended three bedroom
- Additional loft room
- Lounge/diner
- Kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Off road parking
- Garage
- Awaiting EPC rating

£184,950

HEATH HAYES
DENBURY CLOSE

- A three bedroom detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Good sized rear garden
- Garage and driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£210,000

CANNOCK
HEDNESFORD ROAD

- A traditional two bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Off road parking
- Rear garden
- Town Centre location
- EPC rating D

£124,950

SHOAL HILL
SANDY LANE

- A spacious 4 bedroom detached
- 4 reception rooms
- Kitchen, utility room
- Conservatory, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Double Garage
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£500,000 Offers Invited

HEATH HAYES
DENBURY CLOSE

- A three bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Tandem garage
- Driveway
- EPC rating D

£209,950

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Two bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Off road parking, gargae
- Town centre location
- Rear Garden
- EPC rating E

£135,000

HEDNESFORD
ANGLESEY COURT

- First floor 1 bedroom apartment
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Lounge, Study/Storage
- Garage, Allocated parking
- Good Location
- Intercom Entrance
- Must be Viewed
- EPC rating D

£105,000

HUNTINGTON
BADGER CLOSE

- A spacious three bedroom detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Gargae and parking
- EPC rating D

£225,000

CANNOCK
MANOR AVENUE

- Spacious three bedroom detached
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room, cloakroom
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating

£242,000

CANNOCK
MORETON STREET

- A two bedroom detached bungalow
- Central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, shower room
- Two bedrooms
- Good sized rear garden
- In need of modernisation
- Awaiting EPC rating

£129,950

CANNOCK
NEWHALL STREET

- A two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and guest cloakroom
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Good sized rear garden
- EPC rating E

£134,950

HEDNESFORD
STEPHENSON WAY

- A modern two bedroom apartment
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Ideal first time buy
- Ideal investment
- Awaiting EPC rating

£83,000 offers in excess of

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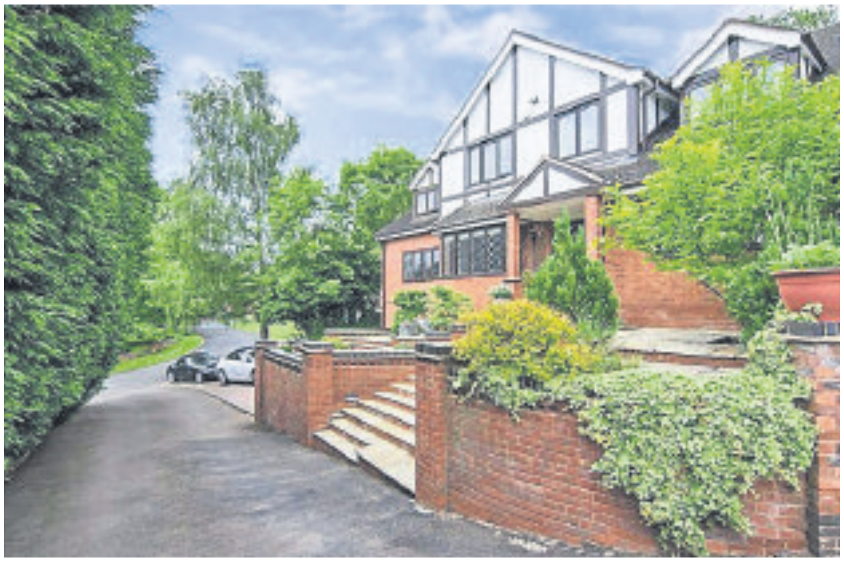


Tastefully decorated and finished to high standard, an outstanding home in an exclusive cul-de-sac

An outstanding five-bedroomed executive detached family home with a superb self-contained annexe in Sanderling Rise, Burntwood, is for sale through Lovett & Co at £550,000.

The property is set on an exclusive sought-after cul-de-sac within the Hunslet estate.

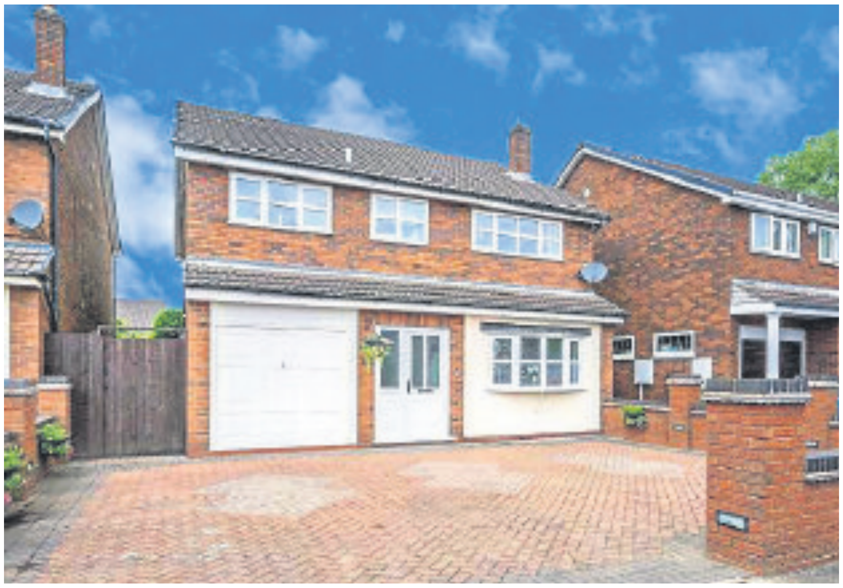
Tastefully decorated and finished to an exceptional standard, it has spacious living and sleeping accommodation with an impressive open plan lounge diner, high spec fitted breakfast kitchen, a charming well-established private rear garden and a driveway with parking for four/five vehicles.

BURNTWOOD
£550,000

On the ground floor is a reception hallway, a lounge/diner, a breakfast kitchen, sitting room, utility and guest WC. On the first floor are four bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom. The annexe has three floors. On the ground floor is an oversized garage.

On the first floor is an open plan lounge with a kitchen/diner and a conservatory. On the second floor is a bedroom and a shower room. The property benefits from double glazing and central heating throughout.

Contact Lovett & Co on 01543 889410.



Well-presented modern property with a refitted kitchen/diner and a well-stocked rear garden

Well presented throughout, this modern four double-bedroomed property in Kinross Avenue, Hednesford, Cannock, comes with a re-fitted modern kitchen/diner.

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £269,950.

In a popular location, in brief its accommodation comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, a re-fitted modern breakfast kitchen, a utility and guest WC, and a second reception room. To the first floor there are four double bedrooms with the master having an en-suite shower room and a further family bathroom.

HEDNESFORD
£269,950

Externally the property has an enclosed well-stocked rear garden

Parking is provided via the full width block paved driveway.

Viewing is essential to appreciate the overall size.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this charming property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing, contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01543 468846.

Webbs
Estate Agents

01543 468846

153 Avon Road
Cannock WS11 1LF

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NEW

HEATH HAYES
PURCELL CLOSE

- Entrance
- Dining Room
- Lounge
- Guest W.C.
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Bathroom

£199,995

NEW

COVEN
PENDEFORD HALL LANE

- Hallway,Guest W.C.
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- en-Suite, Bathroom
- Stables
- Work Shop, Paddock

ASKING PRICE £350,000

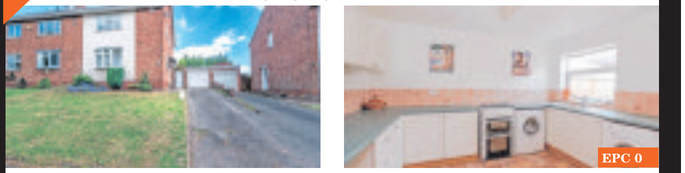
HEDNESFORD
KENMORE AVENUE

- Three Double Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Quiet Location
- Viewing Essential

ASKING PRICE £179,995

NEW

HEDNESFORD
STASFFORD LANE



- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Spacious Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Garage and Driveway
- Close To Hednesford Town Centre
- Easy Access To Train Station

OFFERS OVER £180,000

NEW

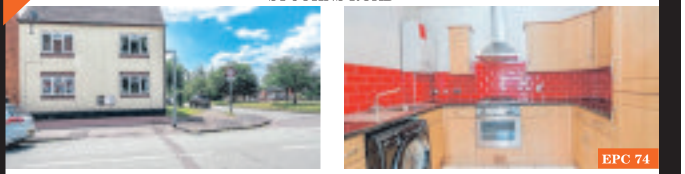
CANNOCK
LANGTREE CLOSE

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Shower Room
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Garage and Utility Room
- Quiet Sought After Location

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £230,000

NEW

CANNOCK
ST JOHNS ROAD



- First Floor Flat
- Double Bedroom
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Three Piece Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Close To Town Centre
- Viewing Essential
-

£70,000

POTTAL POOL, PENKRIDGE
YEW TREE COTTAGE

- STUNNING COTTAGE
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- LOUNGE, ORANGERY
- DINING ROOM
- FAMILY KITCHEN
- TWO/THREE BEDROOMS
- STUNNING BATHROOM
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS

£285,000

NEW

CANNOCK
ALLPORT STREET

- Stunning Throughout
- Open Plan Living Kitchen Area
- Enviable Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Guest WC
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Large Mature Rear Garden
- Log Cabin

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £350,000

"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"

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0.6%
Inc Vat
MIN FEE - £999 inc. VAT

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Rugeley: **01889 597359** Rugeley@monopolybullsellrent.co.uk
Website: www.monopolybuysellrent.co.uk

*EPC's and Floor Plans are subject to an extra charge

Property of the Week £120,000

SOLD

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- Requires modernisation
- No onward chain 💡

Great Wyrley Office - o/o £100,000

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There's plenty of choice in the range

Rio is a decent sized family hatchback at reasonable cost

By Carmel Stewart

Along with the rest of the Kia range, the Rio has really grown up over the past few years, developing into a decent sized, family hatch back with plenty of choice and a not too outrageous price point.

The current fourth generation model sits on an all-new platform, with new suspension, new steering, a new look, new technologies and new engine line-up.

As always with Kia, there is plenty of choice – four petrol engines and two diesels plus three gearboxes, three + two trim levels and a clear pricing structure.

All come with five doors and that industry-best, seven-year warranty. The entry-level model – badged 1 – includes air con, electric front windows, a 3.8-inch display screen, Bluetooth, steering wheel-mounted audio controls and LED daytime running lights. Safety kit includes hill-start assist to prevent the car from rolling backwards when setting off on steep inclines.

All models above 1 have autonomous emergency braking and a lane departure warning system fitted as standard, although this is an option at entry-level.

But a step up to level 3 is needed for the essential 21st century smartphone connectivity – Apple CarPlay and the like. Also included are Bluetooth with voice recognition and music streaming, a seven-inch touch screen, DAB radio and rear parking sensors together with 16-inch alloys, black faux leather upholstery, satellite navigation, heated front seats, heated steering wheel and rain-sensing front wipers.

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be regardless of trim. The Rio won't burn anyone off at the lights or encourage straight-lining the corners but it does offer a very decent, uncomplicated driving experience with no unwarranted surprises.

Choose the 1.0 litre 99bhp turbo petrol engine and you'll be rewarded with a smooth, efficient, very competent drive. Average economy runs at 62.8mpg and CO2 emissions at 102g/km.

For the red rosette of economy, diesel selection is inevitable. Kia's 1.4litre CRDi with 76bhp or 86bhp at its disposal have clocked an average 80.7mpg and 74.3mpg in official tests.

Five or six-speed manual gearboxes – both with stop/start technology – are allocated according to engine size. If the four-speed automatic is your transmission of choice, then 1.4litre 98bhp petrol is your only option. Economy runs at 56.5mpg, CO2 emissions at 114g/km. Zero to 60mph takes 11.8 seconds and top speed redlines at 108mph.

The cabin is roomy enough for five but four would be more comfortable unless the rear seat passengers are all Slimming World finalists. There are bottle shaped spaces in the door pockets and various places for stashing bits and bobs. The boot is a very acceptable 325 litres.

Prices start at a reasonable £12,000 for trim 1, powered by a 1.25litre 83bhp petrol engine, coupled with a five-speed manual gearbox. A step up to trim 2 with the same engine and gearing puts the price up to £14,240.

For trim 3 the price becomes slightly more cheek-sucking at £16,240 but not seriously so given the very decent amount of kit.

Tucked in below and above 3 are the two special editions – Pulse and First Edition.

Globally, the Rio is Kia's best-seller, with sales close to 475,000 a year, and while it is overshadowed in the UK by the Sportage and ceed range, it still accounts for almost one-sixth of the company's sales.

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New Focus packing plenty of tech and still leader of pack

This fourth-generation car is entirely new

By Jon Reay

Twenty years after the first Focus was launched, Ford's mid-sized hatch might not be the sales chart-topper it once was – now usurped by its smaller sibling, the Fiesta – but there's no underestimating how important it still is to the brand and to buyers in the UK.

As you'd expect, Ford isn't messing around here. This fourth-generation car is entirely new, is filled with even more technology than before, and promises to be even better to drive thanks to a stiffer chassis and some clever suspension bits and pieces.

There's also an array of new or heavily improved engines available, including new 1.5-litre petrols with fuel-sipping cylinder deactivation tech.

Also new is the eight-speed automatic gearbox, complete here with a Jaguar-style rotary dial for selecting park, reverse and drive. Replacing the previous PowerShift dual-clutch set-ups, this is a proper automatic – and a good one at that.

The Focus gets four engines – two petrols, two diesels – in various states of tune. A 1.0-litre EcoBoost borrowed from the old car is the cheapest, although we'd advise against the entry-level 83bhp version in a car of this size.

The new Focus is an even better drive

We drove the 148bhp 1.5 petrol and it felt just about right: torquey all the way through the rev range, with just enough power to have some fun. It's refined too – virtually silent most of the time, only generating that typical three-cylinder thrum with heavy use of the throttle.

Information about gradient, cornering speed and driving style is fed to the gearbox's computer, which does a surprisingly good job of working out when to shift down or up on its own, meaning you're rarely left waiting for the right gear to materialise.

The Focus's manual options – two six-speed 'boxes – have been tweaked for improved shift quality and efficiency too.

Aside from its bold design, it was driving dynamics where the original 1998 Focus really stood out from the crowd – so does the fourth generation carry on the tradition? In a word, yes. It's still great fun to drive, and arguably more enjoyable behind the wheel than the car it replaces.

The driving position is spot on, dials are all clear and easy to read, and most trim levels come with plenty of seat adjustability (for the driver at least).

Front and rear visibility is on a par with rivals', and the Focus is easy enough to park without the use of any electronic aids. That said, parking sensors are included on Titanium trim and above, while Ford's newly improved Active Park Assist system is even easier to use than before: provided your Focus has the eight-speed automatic, it'll now accelerate and brake as well as steer itself into a space.

Its wheelbase has been increased to allow for extra rear legroom, and the dashboard is now less deep and sculpted in such a way that the interior feels airier and more spacious. Rear passengers get plenty of legroom even in hatchback models, although taller passengers could feel the squeeze on headroom – particularly when the panoramic sunroof option is fitted.

However, if practicality is a priority, the estate version has you covered. With the rear seats in place it'll now take loads that are 43mm higher and 25mm longer than before, while folding them flat – now at the pull of a switch – gives a load capacity of 1,650 litres. That's not quite as spacious as the cavernous Skoda Octavia estate, but it does beat the similarly sized Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer by 20 litres or so

Surprise surprise, the new Focus is – from the driver's seat at least – probably the best car in its segment once again. There are rivals with posher interiors, cheaper price tags or longer warranties, but as an overall package the Focus is still the one to beat.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD All New Focus 2.3 EcoBoost (350PS) With Stop/Start - 5 Door, M6: Urban 28.2 (10.0), Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3), Combined 36.7 (7.7), CO_2 emissions 175(g/km). Lowest: FORD Fiesta 1.5 Duratorq TDCi ECOnetic (95PS) Stop-Start, M5: urban 83.1 (3.4), extra urban 94.2 (3.0), combined 88.31 (3.2). Official CO_2 emission 82g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results (EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008), are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience. Prices & details correct at time of publishing & are subject to change without notice. The Finance Deposit Allowance is only available when financed with Ford Credit. *Finance subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over through Ford Credit. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. An Excess Mileage Charge will be payable if you decide to return the vehicle & the agreed annual mileage has been exceeded. Finance example figures are based on 6,000 miles per annum for illustration purposes & may vary depending on circumstances. Please note calls may be recorded for training & quality purposes. Acorn Group Limited is an Appointed Representative of Automotive Compliance Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA No 497010). Automotive Compliance Ltd's permissions as a Principal Firm allows Acorn Group Limited to act as a credit broker, not as a lender, for the introduction to a limited number of finance providers and to act as an agent on behalf of the insurer for insurance mediation activities only. All offers are subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Details correct at time of publication, E&OE.

Toyota Camry will return to the UK as Avensis departs

Toyota has confirmed that the Avensis saloon will be dropped from its model line-up, due to slow sales. But if you really crave a large, Japanese family saloon, fear not, as the brand has just confirmed that the Camry will return to the UK in order to fill the gap.

The Camry is immensely popular in the United States

The Camry is immensely popular in the United States, and holds the distinction of the world's best-selling saloon. Over 700,000 Camrys sell every year worldwide. It was previously on sale in the UK from 1983 until 2004, where it sat above the smaller Avensis in the brand's line-up.

The latest Camry is still larger than the Avensis it replaces, but it's based on Toyota's latest scalable platform – which underpins the new Auris, as well as the Prius and C-HR.

It will also underpin the upcoming Lexus UX SUV and ES saloon. Toyota's promised to tune the ride and handling of the Camry specifically for European tastes – so expect a slightly firmer ride and sharper handling than the US models.

The underpinning platform gives the Camry access to the brand's hybrid powertrains – in this case, it will be a 2.5-litre naturally aspirated petrol engine mated with an electric motor. It's likely to be the sole powertrain option for the Camry, leaving it a rival to cars such as the Ford Mondeo Hybrid and VW Passat GTE – though both of those cars also offer diesel engines.

The Camry won't be a plug-in hybrid, either – there will be no option for extended all-electric running as in rivals such as the Kia Optima PHEV or the aforementioned Passat.

Despite being British-built, the outgoing Avensis is a poor seller for the brand. Just 3,473 examples sold in the UK in 2017. Toyota is hoping that the larger and more luxurious Camry, which is built at the brand's plant in Kentucky, will appeal to fleet markets, and perform rather better.

However, the loss of Avensis production won't affect employment at the UK facility in Burnaston, Derbyshire.

A spokesperson said: "At the Geneva Motor Show earlier this year we revealed the new Toyota Auris [also sold as the Corolla] and announced Burnaston as the production location for this model.

"It was well received by the media and the public and is expected to sell well. We are now preparing for the introduction of this third generation Auris and is recruiting new team members."

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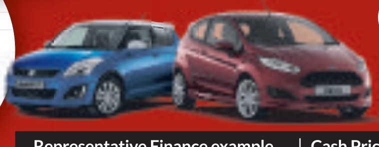

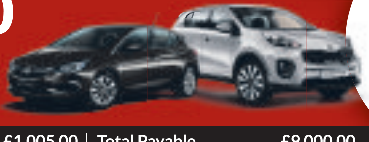

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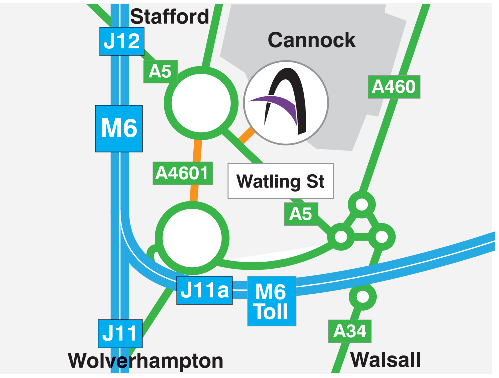

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MOTORING

Vauxhall has updated its best-selling range of Corsas

By James Parker

With a simplified model range, Vauxhall has updated its top-selling Corsa range, with highlights including new Euro 6.2 compliant engines, new trims and integrated sat nav as standard on up-level models.

The new Corsa range is available in seven different trim levels, with prices starting from just £11,250 on-the-road for the entry-level Active model.

Customers can also choose from Design, Energy, Sport, SRi Nav, SE Nav and SRi VX Nav Black models.

Compliant

Available in three or five-door variants, the range introduces the new 1.4-litre Euro 6.2 compliant petrol engines.

Paired with either a five or six-speed manual, or automatic transmission, the new engines can achieve up to 50.4mpg and CO2 emissions as low as 128g/km.

The new Corsa range also now has more tech as standard on selected trims.

The refreshed Corsa introduces air conditioning as standard starting from the Design trim, and Navi 4.0 IntelliLink touchscreen navigation and infotainment system on all models from the SRi Nav trim.

The new refreshed model range is now available to order

Vauxhall has also introduced the new Lux pack, which is available for customers choosing the SE Nav trim.

For just an additional £1,550, customers can add extras including 17-inch diamond cut alloy wheels, rear view camera, tinted rear windows, single zone climate control and more.

The new refreshed model range is now available to order from your nearest Vauxhall retailer.

2014 14 Nissan Juke 1.5 DCi

2011 61 Fiat 500 1.2

Ford Ka Edge

2007 57 Smart Passion Auto

2004 04 Ford Mustang 3.7 40th Anniversary Edition

Mini Cooper 1.6 Cabriolet

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SALOONS/HATCHBACKS/ESTATES

2014 64	**NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCi** Diesel, White, One Owner, Full Nissan History, 20,000 miles, Alloys, Air Con, C/Locking, E/Windows, £20 Tax	£8995
2014 14	**DACIA DUSTER 1.5 DCi 4x2** AMBIENCE Metallic Grey, Alloys, Roof Rails, Air Con, Bluetooth etc, Full History	£7495
2014 14	**FIAT 500L 1.3 LOUNGE** 5-door. MPV, £20 Tax, Alloys, Panoramic Roof, Air Con, E/Windows, FSH	£6995
2011 61	**FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2** Start Stop, Pastel Blue, Panoramic Roof, Air Con, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking, PAS, CD, £30 Road Tax, 36,000 miles, Service History	£4995
2011 11	**FORD KA EDGE** Air Con, Black, C/Locking, E/Windows, CD, Excellent Condition	£4295
2009 59	**KIA SOUL 2 CRDi DIESEL** Silver, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows, C/Locking etc	£4695
2010 59	**VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 1.4** 5 door, Black, Twin E/Sunroofs, Air Con, E/Windows, C/Locking, 54,000 miles	£3695
2010 59	**FIAT 500 SPORT** Diesel, Black with Black Leather, Alloys, Air Con, Spoiler etc. £20 Road Tax	£3995
2007 57	**KIA RIO 1.4,** 5 door, Silver, E/Windows, C/Locking, PAS, Air Con, CD Player	£2,695
2007 07	**KIA SPORTAGE XE** Diesel, 4x4, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, C/Locking, E/Windows	£4295
2007 07	**CITROEN C3 COOL 1.4,** 5 door, Black, E/Windows, C/Locking, Air Con, CD	£2,295
2006 06	**MINI COOPER 1.6 CABRIOLET** Metallic Blue with Electric Roof, Half Leather, Alloys, E/Windows, etc	£4995

AUTOMATICS

2012 12	**CITROEN DS5 Diesel Auto,** Metallic Blue, only 48,000 miles, E/Windows, Alloys, C/Locking	£8995
2009 59	**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TITANIUM** Auto 3 door, Stunning Black with Alloys, Rear Spoiler, E/Windows, C/Locking, HFS, only 46,000 miles, FSH	£5795
2009 09	**FORD FUSION 1.4 Semi-Auto,** Silver, only 34,000 miles, E/Windows, C/Locking, PAS, Alloys, etc. Drives superb	£4995
2007 57	**SMART PASSION Auto,** Metallic Blue, only 39,000 miles, Glass Roof, Alloys, Leather interior	£3295
2006 56	**FORD FOCUS ZETEC Auto Estate,** Metallic Blue, only 66,000 miles	£2995
2004 04	**FORD MUSTANG 3.7** 40th Anniversary Edition. Silver, Bullet Alloys, Powerflex Exhaust, Good History, Excellent for year	£5995
1997 R	**MAZDA BONGO 2.5 Diesel,** 4 Berth, Camper Van, Full Camper Conversion Cooker, Sink, Fridge, E/Roof, Awning, Porta Loo etc	£7995

DISABLED

2010 60	**VAUXHALL CORSA COMBO DIESEL.** Automatic, Gowrings Conversion, Metallic Blue, Only 17,000 miles, From new, Air con, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995
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2007 57	**RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 Gowrings** wheelchair adapted vehicle, excellent for year	£3895

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Flair added to C4 Cactus

By Sharon Walters

Inside the cabin is very quiet

The car is wider at the front and rear

C4 has front LED daytime running lights, extra chrome highlights and nine body colours

There's nothing prickly about Citroën's latest C4 Cactus and nothing for some of the previous Cactus buyers to get prickly about.

I refer to the plastic airbumps that used to adorn the sides of the Cactus, I actually quite liked them, they were very useful in supermarket car parks to ward off dents from wayward supermarket trolleys.

But they were not so aesthetically pleasing.

One thing they did do was make the car stand out – something Citroën has been very good at over the years with several quirky designs.

In this latest incarnation of car that's been around since 2014, the French manufacturer has largely ditched them with just vestiges on the lower extremities.

The removal was part of the company's efforts to move the car more upmarket and it's certainly worked. Inside and out 90 per cent of what you see is new. In addition to the reduced Airbump panels, it's wider at the front and rear, with front LED daytime running lights, extra chrome highlights and a choice of nine body colours and four colour packs which allow you to add a touch of black, white, silver or red to the front foglight trim – which provide buyers with no fewer than 31 exterior combinations.

Inside the cabin is very quiet thanks to better soundproofing, it feels spacious, light and welcoming and there's a wealth of tech inside including today's must-have and all-important connectivity. Here it's the excellent MirrorLink which is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

All information and apps are contained on a seven-inch touchscreen and DAB radio and Bluetooth are standard on all models.

On the safety side the C4 Cactus has a comprehensive pack including active safety brake and blind spot monitoring, park assist with reversing camera, hill start assist, grip control and fog lights with a cornering function.

And for those of us who sometimes don't take enough breaks on long hauls there's a 'take a break' flashing cup and saucer which appears on the dashboard when you've been in the driver's seat for more than two hours.

And if you're on your handsfree phone for too long you'll get a message inviting you to hang up or pull over.

Two different trims currently are on offer – Feel, and Flair with prices starting at start at £17,265 – and engine options of three 3-cylinder PureTech petrol engines and the highly efficient BlueHDi 100 S&S diesel, as well as the latest generation EAT6 fully automatic gearbox.

I tested the C4 Cactus Feel BlueHDi 100 which gave excellent fuel returns and enjoyed a nimble and responsive driving experience on country lanes and on motorways.

True French flair in this car and on reflection I think it was a wise decision to ditch the plastic – now the car has more style.

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AUTOMATICS

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

CUSTOMER

INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

Acknowledgements

WARD

Eric

The Family of the late Eric Ward would like to thank their Family and Friends for attending Eric's Funeral on June 13.

Donations of £295 were raised in aid of St. Giles Hospice.

Thank you all.

WORTHINGTON

Glenys Ann

Roger and Family would like to thank everyone who attended Glenys Funeral.

Special thanks to Colin Bruton for conducting the Service and Halliwells Great Wyrley Staff.

A big thank you for your donations of £910 to The Stoke Association.

In Memoriam

HARDWARE

Richard John

Velda and Family would like to thank everyone who attended Richards Funeral.

Special thanks to Rev. Peter Harris for a lovely Service, also thanks to everyone who sent cards and donations which raised £560 for the Air Ambulance

---

ROGERS

Jim

July 1st 2017

Our hearts still ache in sadness, secret tears still flow.

What it meant to lose you no one will ever know.

Miss and love you always.

Wife Christine, Julie, Debbie and Grandchildren.

X X X

Deaths

COOPER

Christopher

Sadly passed away, Monday, June 18, aged 68 years.

Beloved Husband of Christine, loving Father, Stepfather and Grandad.

Funeral Service to take place on Friday, July 6 at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Cannock at 11.30am.

Family flowers only.

Donations to St Giles Hospice if desired.

Inquiries to
SELLMANS
Cheslyn Hay.
01922 410612.

DAVENPORT

Frank

Of Hednesford.

Passed away on June 27, 2018, aged 89 years.

Reunited with his beloved Wife Nancy, also a loving Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Father-in-law and Friend.

Requiem Mass will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church on Thursday, July 12 at 12.30pm, followed by Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Fortified by the rites of the Holy Church.

Funeral care has been entrusted to

MAGUIRE
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Brindley House
75 Broadhurst Green
Hednesford
01543 879866

LANGSTON

Roger

Passed away June 19, 2018, aged 71 years.

Much loved Husband and Father.

Funeral Service will take place on Monday, July 9, at St Peters Church, Hednesford, at 9am followed by Cremation at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations for St Peters Church, Hednesford.

Further inquiries

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford WS12 4AR
01543 422524

REYNOLDS

Bill

Passed away at home on June 19, 2018.

Beloved Brother, Dad, Grandad, Great-Grandad, Uncle and Friend.

Funeral Service on Monday, July 16, 2018, at Stafford.

Crematorium, 12.30pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations forwarded to Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

Black and white attire if possible.

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WINKS

Laurie

Of Rugeley, passed away peacefully at Queen's Hospital Burton on June 20, aged 83.

He will be missed by all those who knew him.

A Service to commemorate his life will be held at Stafford Crematorium on Tuesday, July 10 at 3pm.

No flowers by request but donations, in lieu, if desired will help support the work of Cancer Research UK.

Please direct all inquiries to

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94 Queensville,
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WALLETT

May

Of Norton Canes.

Passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, June 21, 2018, aged 88 years.

May will be sadly missed by her loving Daughters Maureen, Diane, Elaine and their Families.

Funeral Service to be held at Streetly Crematorium West Chapel, on Monday, July 9, 2018, at 10.30am.

Family flowers only by request.

Donations welcome and will be accepted on the day for Marie Curie.

All inquiries to

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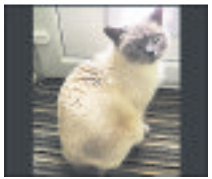

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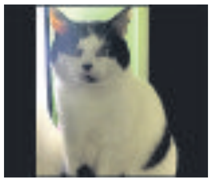

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full kitchen and bathroom. Riverside site, own a 15th of site. Low ground rent. Near S.V.Railway at Hampton Loade.
£65,000
01746 862076.

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury.
Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

holidays

Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let, all overlook the sea. Half price OAP offer. 01984631781 www.helwellbay.com

TOWYN N.WALES, Caravans to let, small site, good rates, all facilities 01745 334897 or 07766 306230.

Caravan Parks

NEW & USED STATIC CARAVANS for sale on award winning Country Holiday Park on the Staffordshire / Shropshire border. For details call 01902 851 302
www.oaklandholidaypark.co.uk

Caravan Sales

Lovely 6-berth Caravan

Located close to the seaside on family run Beverley Holidays in Paignton with free use of fantastic facilities including show-stopping entertainment, heated indoor and outdoor swimming pools.
22,995 including 2018 pitch fees
Call 07543 220519 or visit
www.beverleyholidayhomes.co.uk

Devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
Limited Availability
for July & August
Ring for
available dates
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday
Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

Dentistry

NEW NHS DENTAL PATIENTS

SAME DAY EMERGENCIES
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Stafford Dental Surgery
01785 252 536
www.stafforddentalsurgery.co.uk
staffordreception78@gmail.com

what's on

Auctions

★ **ANTIQUE/ COLLECTABLES AUCTION** ★
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL,
CALFHEATH, CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
Monday 9th July
AUCTION STARTS 6PM -
VIEWING 4.30PM
★ 07775 951464 ★

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 16th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

Furniture

katharine house hospice
embracing life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

LEATHER CHESTERFIELD settee, Brown, model still current and still manufactured, cost £2000, sell £700. 01889 577390.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Antiques

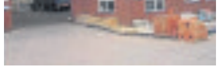
Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first
Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very happy with my Classified Advertising Campaign both in print and online."

Simon- Ranton Building Supplies

For great business results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

LAWN TURF SUPPLIES
LUSH GREEN GARDEN TURF
CUT FRESH IN EASY TO LAY
ROLLS. DELIVERIES DAILY
TRENT VALLEY TURF
01902 738217

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.95 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

Items For Sale

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins,
Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

✔ **A GENUINE LADY BUYER** ✔
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY TYPE OF GOLD
Any type of gold wanted, e.g 9 carat gold. Jewellery from £300+ per oz.
Sovereigns £200+ each
Any amount collected. Gold coins, silver, all medals, bank notes, old brassware, old cameras, oriental items, anything old, interesting or collectable
Call Pauline on
01922 495066
✔ or 07971 783206 ✔

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield setees.
01902 454144 or
0121 5263375

CASH PAID NOW!
WANTED TOOLS
Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A A CLEAR VISION AERIALS
Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV
Aerials from **£79**
Dishes from **£79**
OAP DISCOUNT
01902 752036

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Domestic Repairs & Services

SAME DAY LOW COST REPAIRS
Washing Machines,
Tumble Dryers, Electric Cookers
12 MONTHS GUARANTEE
CALL ROY **07850 355552**

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways,
Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50 PSM
We will beat any like for like
written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

A&S CONTRACTING SERVICES LIMITED
Tarmacadam & Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Slabbing & Landscaping
Over 30 years experience
Free Quotes 01902 736051
or 07854 919937

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios,
Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping,
Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation
call: 01785 878574
or 07845 483443

External Rendering /Insulation

RENDER OR INSULATION 20 year insurance backed guarantee. Free Quotes 01902 495 699 www.ecotexcontracts.co.uk

Fencing

GARDEN KINGS
All Garden work and maintenance,
Fencing, Tree Cutting,
Turfing and much more
Call: Steve for free quote
07774449900 / 01902 238653

BUSHBURY FENCING
FITTING SPECIALISTS
FREE QUOTES
01902 827000
07816 863810

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

JC'S LAWN CARE
GRASS CUTTING AND EDGING
Hedges /overgrown gardens
Regular and one off cuts
07879 418350

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing machines, outside taps, showers, plumbing, heating, gutter cleaning. Free quotes call: 07850 559315.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part,
also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER
- Over 20 years' experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.
- Supply now available!

Checkatrade.com
CONTACT MATT ON 07881 654 757 or 01543 373 233

Oven Cleaning

OVEN CLEANING SERVICE
Ovens, double ovens, grills, hobs, ranges and agas. All cleaned to a professional standard.
S&J Oven wizardz
01785 612517

Painters/ Decorators

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified. local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plumbing & Heating

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on **07791 319397**
www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call or text Will free quotes on: 07521 411108.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

4 Pets & Animals

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

HEDGEHOG HOUSES, cedar treated with waterproof animal friendly preservative, £40. Cheslyn Hay. 01922 419532/07837 409533.

QUAILITY KOI CARP, from 5" to 10". Call Steve on 07857 893607.

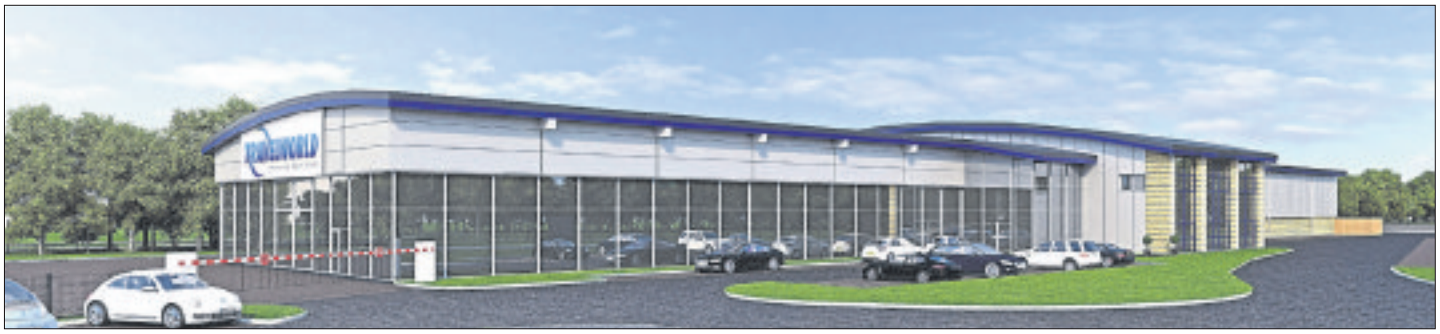
SHORKIES Shih tzu cross Yorkshire terriers, 8 weeks old, 3 boys, 3 girls, tiny, friendly, Mom and Dad can be seen, good with children. £300. 07905 582550.

7 Jobs

Drivers

PART TIME HGV CLASS 1 OR 2 DRIVERS for delivery of commercial vehicles, early starts, clean licence. Tel 01543 263135.

Motorhome and caravan dealer relocates



Over the last 40 years the Edwards family has built a successful, market-leading leisure business at Travelworld Motorhomes.

Due to an extended period of growth the decision was made to expand and relocate the business to a prime motor retail site in Stafford.

The new headquarters at Valley Drive M6 Junc 14 will provide the company with a high-profile location and one which will allow the company strong foundations for further expansion.

Extensive

Travelworld's new headquarters is due for completion in October 2018 and will comprise a state-of-the-art 20-vehicle showroom with display area for a further 150 motorhomes & caravans, extensive office space and a large 20-bay service centre to include an MOT testing bay.

The service centre will carry out both habitation & chassis servicing, fitting of chassis accessories such as full air suspension systems and Hydraulic levelling jacks and has Fiat Professional accreditation

Travelworld Managing Director Ross Edwards said: "We'd been looking for a new headquarters for some time and this site just off the M6 is both the right size and location to enable us to appeal to a much wider catchment area.

"The motorhome market in the UK has doubled since 2013, benefiting from a significant amount of product innovation, which appeals to both new groups of adventuring "staycationers" as well as traditional caravanners & motorhomers.

"The move to Stafford will enable us to capitalise fully on those favourable market conditions. Travelworld have offered many brands over the years but recently became an exclusive ERWIN HYMER GROUP dealer, meaning they only import and sell high quality, luxury German motorhomes and caravans.

Plans

"The dealership now boasts the largest sales in the UK for the famous HYMER brand, Carado & Niesmann + Bischoff with plans to take on the Dethleffs brand in time for the move to Stafford. These products are the pinnacle of our industry in terms of quality and design and because we specialise in them 100% we attract customer from far and wide, Stafford allows us one of the most centralised leisure dealership locations in the UK." There has also been a new venture within the business in the form of the 'Rent Easy' motorhome rental franchise that Travelworld operate. The rental fleet is fully operational now and offers brand new Hymer & Carado motorhomes plus Hymercar campervans.

TRAVELWORLD

The UK's largest Erwin Hymer Group dealer is recruiting!

Travelworld are an exclusive Erwin Hymer group dealer, representing their finest brands, German marques synonymous with luxury, heritage and authentic craftmanship. We're now looking for enthusiastic and talented individuals to join our successful team.

We are recruiting for:-

- Sales Executives
- Technicians
- Habitation Mechanics
- Auto Electricians
- Service Advisors
- Warranty Advisors
- Parts Advisors
- Accounts Assistant
- Sales Administrators
- Receptionists
- Valetors
- Housekeeping Staff
- Casual Drivers

PLUS APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

• PARTS • HANDOVER / SALES • TECHNICIANS

Interested?..... Send your CV and covering email to carol@motorhomes.co.uk

Travelworld Motorhomes, Halesfield 14, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 4QR.

EST. 1977 TRAVELWORLD ERWIN HYMER GROUP DEALER

Full Time General

Burrell Jenkins Solicitors

We are seeking to appoint an experienced full time

LEGAL SECRETARY

specialising in either Family or Criminal Law.

It is essential that the successful candidate has a good working knowledge of LAA and Lexcel guidelines and procedures.

Please apply with CV and references to Paul Jenkins, First Floor, Ridings House, Ridings Park, Eastern Way, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 7FH or email pjenkins@burrell-jenkins.co.uk

Closing date - 12 July 2018.

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 17-18 November

Accredited ocn Geopace Training

Skills for Health

Learn how to take blood ...

TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy

- **TWO DAY COURSE** - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED

We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

5 Business & Farming

business directory

Accountants

Prime Accounting Services
Offering a full range of Accountancy, Bookkeeping and payroll services
Call or email - 01785 211078
info@primeaccountingservices.co.uk
www.primeaccountingservices.co.uk

8 Motoring

spares & accessories

Cars Over £1500

CITROEN C4 PICASSO
Platinum blue.
MoT March 2019.
Full dealer Citroen service history.
31,800 miles.
Excellent condition.
£6,995.
Telephone 01543 572265.

MUST BE SEEN

MAZDA MX5 EUNOS ROADSTER
1993 automatic, blue, lots of work already done, MoT ran out April 2018, sadly has to go due to ill health.
Genuine offers only
£650.
0121 505 3101.

NISSAN MICRA VISIA
2011 June
17,300 miles
Red, 5dr hatchback,
11 months MoT.
£2,750.
01785 214276.

MOT's

MOTs ONLY £29.50
formula one autocentres
CANNOCK WS11 0BN
01543 50 20 00
F1AUTOCENTRES.COM

EXCELLENT CONDITION

SAAB 9.3 TID
2008, 76,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, diesel, alloys, CD, owned since 2009, beautiful condition.
£2,650.
07896 963650.

BARGAIN

SUZUKI JIMNY
4 x 4
1300CC
04 reg.
Mot'd.
Good condition throughout.
£2,500
or Part Exchange for Motorhome or Camper Van.
01543 375409 / 07866 407209.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA
1.4.
2004.
3 door. Hatchback.
Petrol. 76.000 miles.
Silver.
Full MoT. Spare Key.
History. E/W. A/C. RCL.
Three former owners.
£995.
07838 897643.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

PEUGEOT 206
1.4, 52 reg, 3-dr hatchback, silver, petrol, manual, MoT'd till June 2019, 52,500 miles, factory fitted sunroof.
Good first car, used daily.
£500.
01922 442750.

PEUGEOT 206 ZEST
1.1, 3-dr, 05 reg, black, only 69,000 miles, service histotry, one lady owner from new, long MoT,
Stunning condition.
£995.
07596 223665.

LOOK

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ENERGY
07 reg. Mot January.
Blue. Factory tinted window at rear.
Good condition and drives well.
£995 ono.
07415 013857.

Classic Cars

FORD FIESTA RS1800
1993, 86,000 miles, nice blue, metallic paint. Now a classic will only go up in value, great investment, only 50 of these left on the road.
£7,500 ono.
07711 822772.

Motorbikes

ALL BIKES WANTED Anything considered. Pristine, non runners, barn finds, unfinished projects Highways 07971 793661 or 01902 773608.

YAMAHA MT-07 ABS
14 reg, 700cc, only 3000 miles, very good condition.
mot Aug 18
£4,300 ono
07958 316971.

Scrap Vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

mainline
Salvage & Recovery
- *SCRAP CARS WANTED*
- *FREE COLLECTION*
- *TOP PRICES PAID*

Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CARS WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE!
Runners/ Non Runners,
MOT Failures.
Can Collect. Cash Waiting!
Classic Cars, Scrap Cars,
Motoring Memorabilia and
Garage Tools Wanted!
Call 07790 032224
01902 823933

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished.
07825 581676.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

The ASA
regulates ads
on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

Properties Wanted

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? **Yes!** Any House? **Yes!**
Fast Sale? **Yes!** Any Location? **Yes!**
No Fees? **Yes!** Any Condition? **Yes!**

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 01543 547 807
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JOAN DOREEN WHITEHOUSE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Lakeview Stafford Road Great Wyrley West Midlands WS6 6BA, who died on 12/10/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ENOCH EVANS LLP
St Paul's Chambers 6/9 Hatherton Road
Walsall WS1 1XS
T534210

Public Notices

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Lakeside Hire Co. Group Ltd of 8 Wood Lane, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1TA is applying for a licence to use Sunflex NDC, Keys Park Road, Hednesford, Cannock WS12 2FR as an operating centre for 0 goods vehicles and 12 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: July 6th, 2018

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (BROWNHILLS, WALSALL)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the A5 Trunk Road, at Brownhills in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to allow street light replacement works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the gap in the central reservation of the A5 –

a) approximately 305 metres east of the centreline of the junction of the A5 with the B5011 and the A5195; and
b) approximately 440 metres east of the centreline of the junction of the A5 with the B5011 and the A5195.

The closures will be in operation overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours and are expected to start on Monday 9 July 2018, and will continue for approximately four months. The Order will come into force on 6 July 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

For further information please contact Esosa Ikolo, a project sponsor on behalf of Highways England, on 0300 470 3105.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK

Notice is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 3rd July made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic along Cannock Road, Cannock.

For more information regarding access arrangements, timings and diversion routes please visit https://roadworks.org?tm=105740754

The Order will come into operation on 9th July 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated the works will be completed on the same day.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the manhole repairs, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

10 Personals

Personal

100's of lonely women seeking men for casual dates & more, easy / discreet. Call NOW 07008 026348.

18+ SWAP NUMBERS†with local HOTTIES seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489 181/ txt: 07860 021670

THE GREENHOUSE SPA
For gay/ bisexual men.
Jaccuzi and restrooms on site.
TV's & ladyboys welcome
Friday evenings. Open 7 days pw.
2 mins J9 /J10 M6.
Friday & Saturday Disco Room Open
Free Parking
0121 5686126
www.gay-sauna.com

LOOKING FOR MAE (MAY ?)
Half Japanese, Half Chinese.(Hong Kong).
Your mobile number no longer working.
Brian looking for you.
Box Number P21239 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Personal

PRESENTABLE, MATURE GENTLEMAN
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WLTM respectable, smart lady with no ties, 40-65.
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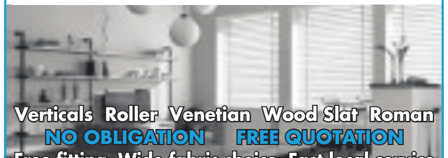

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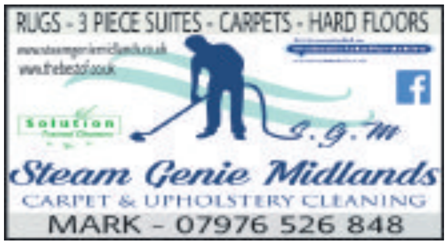

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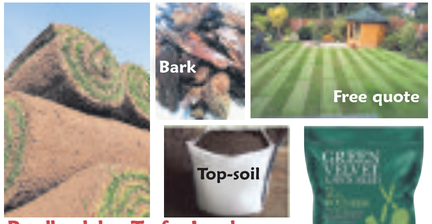

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The star-studded match, on May 11, is being organised by Sellebrity Soccer and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Celebrities taking part include Calum Best, actor Stephen Graham and former Blue member Lee Ryan. Ex-footballers Darren Byfield and Paul Konchesky are also hoping to line-up. More players and special guest managers will be announced later.

Early bird supporters can buy tickets until December for £10 for adults and £5 for under 14s. Tickets are on sale at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc/details/event.aspx?eventref=1798

A limited number of VIP Tickets are available at £35 per person, with access to the Players' Lounge before and after the match. A celebrity player pre-match dinner on May 10 costs £50 per person. Limited sponsorship packages are also available on 0800 8402040.

Old clubs in friendly clash for Regis Trophy

WEST BROM will host Coventry City at The Hawthorns in a pre-season friendly to celebrate the life of Cyrille Regis.

The Baggies will face the Sky Blues, with whom Regis won the FA Cup in 1987, on Saturday, July 28, in their final warm-up game before the Championship season starts. The two clubs will be competing for the inaugural Cyrille Regis Memorial Trophy in honour of the iconic striker who died aged 59 in January. Ticket details will be announced at a later date.

It is hoped other Midlands clubs will contest the trophy in years to come.

Legendary forward Regis was a close friend and mentor of Albion head coach Darren Moore, who has helped organise the memorial match together with the Regis family.

"It's a real honour," said Cyrille's widow Julia. "I think Cyrille would be slightly embarrassed and amused by the attention but that speaks volumes about who he was, understated. In our grief we have taken great comfort by the love everyone has shown and continues to do."

Uni team steps out on football pyramid

THE University of Wolverhampton men's football team has entered a team in the Football League pyramid. The team already plays in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition but from next season will also enter a team into the Total Motion Midlands Football League.

Known as WLV Football FC the team will be made up of university staff and students, as well as the community, and will play in the league's third division.

The league is the 12th tier of the national football pyramid and is seven tiers away from the National League.

The team is based at the University's Walsall Campus and pre-season training has kicked off this week.

Anyone joining the university in September, or a current student who wants to be involved, should contact Martin Longworth by phone on 07926 647811 or email m.longworth@wlv.ac.uk or James Dale, sports manager, at james.dale@wlv.ac.uk

How Joshua is rewriting the boxing record books

Champion Anthony Joshua with his array of belts

Anthony Joshua defeated Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley last year

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

> ***"I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve"***

WHEN it comes to sporting superstars, they don't come any bigger than Anthony Joshua.

Humble, hungry and infectiously happy, the WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight champion of the world is doing something British boxing has never seen before.

In just 21 fights he has reached the top of his sport – with American Deontay Wilder, the holder of the WBC belt, the only man standing in his way from making history and unifying the entire division.

And his next fight, says promoter Eddie Hearn, will be against Russian Alexander Povetkin.

It's the way Joshua has gone about his business though that has seen him grow a fanbase like no other. While sports fans idolise him, Joshua's politeness and joy for life has seen him capture the hearts of the nation. And he recently treated fans in Wolverhampton and Cannock to meet and greet sessions.

The reality is everyone and their nan loves the Hertfordshire-born heavyweight, who seemingly hasn't changed despite a rag-to-riches tale.

Wealthy beyond his wildest dreams, it is only in the past 12 months the 28-year-old has moved out of the former council flat he shared with his mother in Golders Green.

Determined

His new house is nearby and a 15-minute drive from a £500,000 Finchley apartment he bought for his ex-girlfriend and their infant son, Joseph.

But while he is now a superstar with the world at his feet, Joshua isn't getting carried away. And he is absolutely determined to enjoy his life and time in the spotlight. He said recently when meeting fans in the city: "I'm in Wolverhampton, I've never been here before and I want to come back next week because it is lively.

"It's a two-hour drive from my home and I've never been here, can you believe it? I need to start exploring. We're three hours from Morocco by plane. Two hours from France on the Eurostar.

"I hear athletes that say they can't do things because of their insurance policy. I'm not going to protect myself from reality. I'm not having that, let's go out and have a good time. Let's do it, let's have fun."

When speaking to Joshua, two things are clear. The first is that he is incredibly grateful for the life he now has. He may have worked incredibly hard to get there, but you'll never hear him moan.

"I'm not complaining about anything," he continued. "You just have to learn how to deal with the hard work. Hard work has been my breakthrough. I'm not the most talented so I've got to enjoy the hard work."

The second thing that strikes you about him is how obsessed – repeat, obsessed – he is by becoming the best he can be. He knows he is on the brink of being regarded as one of the all-time greats – and that is something he isn't going to let pass him by.

"I'm very comfortable with where I am now," he continued. "I've not reached my peak. I have made a few mistakes and I know what I want to achieve.

"What will make me content is knowing I gave my best. There is no financial package out there that can make you feel content with your life. I want to give it my all, that is what matters to me.

"One day – and that day will come – I don't want to sit watching the next generation of boxers thinking I didn't achieve my potential.

"I want to give it my best – inside and outside the ring. Now I see myself as a student of boxing. I'm always watching old fights. I love Evander Holyfield. He is the first fighter I have watched that I can really learn from. He has got rhythm. And I respect him so much because he didn't dodge anyone. Mike Tyson didn't box Riddick Bowe. Bowe didn't fight Lennox Lewis. But Holyfield fought Tyson, Lewis and Riddick. He boxed them all – the ultimate warrior."

Joshua's rise to the top has been unprecedented. After winning gold at the London Olympics in 2012, he seriously contemplated defending his title in Brazil four years later. Instead, he made what, for him, was a difficult decision to go pro.

Yet he has since stormed through the heavyweight division with his eye-catching win over Wladimir Klitschko one of the greatest bouts of all time.

Away from the ring though, things haven't always been plain sailing. In 2009, Joshua was put on remand in Reading Prison for what he describes as 'fighting and other crazy stuff'. Then in March 2011, he was pulled over for speeding, with police finding cannabis hidden in a sports bag. And Joshua admits there was a time when he was in danger of losing his way.

"At school, I couldn't sit down for six hours a day – I was an active kid," he said. "It's hard to go from lesson to lesson. Some kids excel at that, but most kids want to be out.

Respectful

"I think my teachers would say I was a nice kid because I was always respectful, but I was a little bit disruptive at times.

"I was still getting into a bit of trouble up until about 2011. I was in London. I lived on an estate and I wanted to party and go out drinking.

"But I was a member of an amateur boxing club and I got a call to go up to Sheffield to be involved with the Olympic team. I hadn't come from a sporting background. I didn't have a clue what Olympic boxing was. But I went there to see what it was about and they kept me on the development squad.

"I wanted to kind of keep my hustle going on. I focused on balancing the two. But I remember, one day, speaking to my friend and saying 'I think I might be OK at this boxing thing.'

"I was about 20 years old. But I never went into boxing to be a boxer it was more about confidence."

Joshua admits his parents are proud of how he has since dedicated his life to his sport. "I wasn't ever looking for trouble, I was always respectful because that is how my parents raised me," the fighter said.

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Sport

Knockout! Champ Joshua is rewriting record books
Page 51

Boss: Pitmen will unite as appeal lost

HEDNESFORD TOWN will compete in the Northern Premier League next season after their appeal hearing was dismissed on Monday.

The Pitmen were originally placed in the new Southern League Central Division for the 2018-19 campaign.

Almost a month later they were shifted back up to the Northern Premier by the FA after allocations for next season were decided.

Town boss Rob Smith had assembled a squad ready for Southern League football – leading to the club lodging an appeal on June 8 – but Monday's Wembley hearing ruled that 'the appeal board believe that the FA LMC (League Management Committee) came to a decision that was not unreasonable'.

Smith expressed his disappointment at the news but but called upon the club to pull together. "We do not believe anybody could see the decision as a reasonable one," he said.

"This has now put us well behind in terms of recruitment, and all our hard work to date has been badly damaged. We shall use this decision as motivation.

"I would now ask for all of us connected with the club to come together as one and build towards what will hopefully be a successful season."

Meanwhile, Hednesford have welcomed back Francino Francis as first team coach. Francis had two previous spells with the club as a player – most famously helping the Pitmen to promotion in 2013. He replaces Mark Swann, who has stepped down from the role.

Staffs Under-17s' superb run ends in the last four

STAFFORDSHIRE Under-17s suffered semi-final heartache as they missed out on a place in the final of the County Cup ECB competition.

Staffs' superb run in the competition was ended by a defeat against a strong Lancashire outfit at Porthill Park.

The visitors posted 234-9 from their 50 overs. Adam Peat was the pick of the Staffs attack with 2-34 from nine overs while Andrew Billington and Harvey Ault also picked up two wickets each.

Wolverhampton's Archie O'Hara led the hosts' reply with a fine 68 at the top of the order.

But wickets fell regularly at the other end with no other Staffs batsman passing 20. In the end, Staffs were dismissed for 165.

Despite the defeat, Staffs can take heart from an impressive campaign that saw them record victories against Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and Wales at the group stage to reach the last four.

Captain Jack Redman enjoyed a fine campaign which included a brilliant 156 in the win over Wales and a 131 not out in the clash with Northants.

Pupils hold court with tennis star

WELCOME TO SUMMER

Hart School pupils at Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club

WITH Wimbledon under way this week, children from a Rugeley school have been getting tennis fever.

Members of The Hart School Tennis Club watched professional action in the WTA Nature Valley Classic Birmingham at Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club and got to meet ex-British number one Annabel Croft. Now TV and radio presenter, she took time out to sign their memorabilia.

Teacher Richard Brindley, who accompanied the children on the trip, said: "For most of the tennis club members, this was first experience they had of seeing professional tennis and watching some of the best players in the world.

"Despite play being suspended because of rain, this soon cleared up and the students were able to take their seats on the Centre Court.

"We were also lucky enough to be seated near the ex-British number Annabel Croft and, with a bit of encouragement, some students managed to get their gifts from the competition shop autographed."

SKIPPER CLIPS HAWKS' WINGS

C&R Hawks stay top of the Birmingham League Division Two, despite defeat to Wombourne.

Skipper Dan Bassett led from the front with 119 as Wombourne reached 240-9 with former England Test Player Kabir Ali taking 5-60.

The game was slipping away from Hawks before Saqib Akbar hit 82 from 77 balls to revive them but Tom Hudson (4-43) and Ben Thomas (3-41) put an end to Hawks' innings at 199.

Penkridge lost at home to Sutton Coldfield after being dismissed for just 120. Thomas Finn (5-25) and Dinushka Nawarthnage (3-38) brushed aside Penkridge after Nihal Shilar was out for 45. Skipper Lee Thomason hit 53 as Sutton strode to victory by eight wickets.

Paul Grainger top scored with 62 as Pelsall reached 220-8 against Milford Hall in Division Three. Milford then collapsed to 87 all out after a opening 22-over opening burst from Jonathan Moore and Todd Henderson had them at 41-8. Opening bowler Andrew Lightbown took 3-3 and Tom Stone 4-16 as Lichfield dismissed visiting Old Elizabethans for 109 at Collins Hill. A second wicket stand of 81 between Joe Seager (55) and Jack Warren (48) set Lichfield on the way to a five-wicket win. Amar Jawanda (3-18) had caused further alarm as three wickets fell before victory was confirmed.

Connor Shingler was the pick of the Cannock bowlers in their Staffs Clubs game with Brewood. He returned figures of 3-26 from 10 overs. In response, a collapse saw Cannock fall short by 90 runs. Dan Wood hit 50, but at 95-4, Cannock then lost six wickets for 30 runs to end on 125 all out.

Hammerwich racked up a massive 393-3 in beating Coseley (242) by 151 runs. Jono Allcock scored 73 of Whittington's 170, but their total was 119 shy of the 289 racked up by Penn.

Rugeley lost just one wicket chasing Springvale's 106.

Richard Harris claimed a five-for (5-31) to restrict Wolverhampton 4ths to 209. In reply, Srimal Nanayakkara scored 90 to help Armitage to a five-wicket victory at 210-5.

Jake's in saddle for competition

Hednesford Motocross rider Jake O'Gorman in action

A HEDNESFORD schoolboy is saddling up for a motocross competition this weekend.

Jake O'Gorman, aged 13, a Year 8 pupil at Kingsmead School, will compete in the fourth round of the Amateur Motor Cycle Association (AMCA) championships at Hawkstone Park, Shropshire, on Sunday.

Jake has been racing at competition level since he was six-years-old and raced for Warley Wasps until last year. He has won many club championships with this club over the years on his 50cc COBRA and 65cc KTM MX bikes. He was voted by his club as 'Best Newcomer in 2011' and voted for the 'Best Rider' in 2016.

The AMCA is for all Youth riders aged nine-14. There are eight rounds in all, with the aim of being selected for the International Mountain Bicycling Association contest in August.

Club sets a tournament challenge

ENTRIES are being invited for the Staffordshire County Tennis Championships at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club (WLTSC) next month.

The Grade 3 event is open to all players living in Staffordshire who have an LTA rating, and is always a popular week on the local tennis calendar.

There are singles and doubles competitions for many different age groups, with the men's and women's singles titles having been won last year by Fin Cook and Serena Gill respectively.

WLTSC Everypoint rackets manager Paul Hodgetts said: "I think sometimes people don't enter because they think they might not be good enough but it really is a great tournament to get involved in.

"The more players that enter, from a school level or a club level, they are likely to come up against players of a similar ability. The events range from under-8s to over-55s, and there are also consolation events in singles and doubles for first-round losers,."

This is the fourth successive year that the championships have been staged at WLTSC, which is a source of some pride for the Tettenhall-based club.

"It is a great honour for us to be able to stage the tournament, and we are also fortunate in that we have a lot of club members who make it through to the business end of the draws," Mr Hodgetts added.

The championships run from August 26 to 30 – to enter visit www.lta.org.uk

Pilkington takes on Shrews coaching role

RUGELEY-BORN George Pilkington has returned to the Midlands, joining Shrewsbury Town as first team coach.

It is the 36-year-old's first coaching role after calling time on his 15-year playing career, which included a spell at Port Vale.

Former central defender Pilkington, who used to play for Stone Dominoes, played under new Shrewsbury boss John Askey at Macclesfield Town last season as they took the National League title.

Askey said: "He's somebody I have a lot of trust in. He can bridge the gap between players and staff having only just finished playing."

★★★

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